

France praises Aqaba talks

AMMAN (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand paid a visit to Jordan Tuesday, meeting President Hosni Mubarak for the first time since he was elected in May, and had two hours of talks with Mubarak at a hotel in the capital. At a news conference afterwards, the president praised the talks and said that the Middle East peace process was moving forward. "It's a step forward," Mitterrand said. He said the Aqaba talks would lead to an international Middle East peace conference. Mubarak told the news conference it was too late to revive Arab-Israeli talks on Palestinian "autonomy" provided for under the 1978 Camp David accords brokered between Egypt and Israel by the late U.S. President Jimmy Carter. "Who can revive it? Only God can revive it," he said. Mubarak said the accords, entered into by his predecessor Anwar Sadat and the then Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, had been frozen by the present Israeli government.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Radio Intifada' begins broadcasts

ROME (R) — A Rome radio station said Tuesday it had begun regular broadcasts of Arabic music and news reports to support the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. The broadcasts are called "Radio Intifada." Three times a week radio Proletaria (Proletarian Radio) broadcasts music, news reports from the West Bank and Gaza, interviews with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and Middle East experts, and programmes about Palestinian life and culture.

Bhutto delays election campaign

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto should be able to hit the election campaign trail Thursday or Friday after a minor kidney infection, an aide said Tuesday. The opposition leader, who gave birth to her first child on Sept. 21, was due to start her campaign for the Nov. 16 parliamentary elections in central Sind province Monday. But she returned to her Karachi home instead after her doctor advised a few days rest, her political assistant Zafar Ali Ujjah told reporters. Bhutto's mother Nusrat started her own campaign Tuesday, meeting people in the poor Lyari quarter of Karachi.

Papua New Guinea protests border raid

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — The government lodged a strong protest with Indonesia Tuesday over a weekend border raid in which Indonesian troops reportedly seized five people. News reports in Australia said the people were taken hostage but all were released by late Monday. Foreign Minister Michael Somare said the raid from Indonesian-held Irian Jaya, apparently in pursuit of rebels, blatantly breached a friendship treaty signed last year.

Iran plans parliamentary by-elections

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will hold by-elections Saturday to fill 16 vacancies in the 270-seat parliament, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Tuesday. The agency said 111 candidates approved by screening committees would contest the elections in various parts of the country. General elections for the third term of the four-year parliament were held in April and May. IRNA said results in 15 constituencies were declared void and parliament rejected the credentials of another candidate.

Serb, Kosovo leaderships plan meeting

BELGRADE (AP) — Communist officials from Serbia and its ethnically troubled province of Kosovo plan to discuss possible changes in Kosovo's leadership in a bid to ease tensions there, sources said Tuesday. Kosovo's minority Serb and Montenegrin population have demanded that the southern Yugoslavian province's entire leadership be replaced. They have threatened massive demonstrations if their demands are not met. Communist officials from Serbia and Kosovo planned to meet privately Friday in Belgrade to discuss possible changes in Kosovo's leadership, sources told the AP.

Tibetan-Chinese talks set for January

NEW DELHI (AP) — After a four-year hiatus, the Dalai Lama, will send representatives to Geneva in January to renewed official talks with Chinese officials, his office said Tuesday. These will be the first official talks between the Chinese government and the Tibetan government-in-exile since 1984, spokesman Lodi Gyari said. The exact date has not yet been set. The two sides met in Peking in 1982 and then again in 1984 on the issue of Tibetan independence from China.

Harare moves against Pretoria's diplomacy

HARARE (AP) — Zimbabwe has urged African governments to the "rebuff" moves by white South African officials to meet black leaders of neighbouring states. Foreign Affairs Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said Monday President P.W. Botha of South Africa first should be talking to black leaders in his own country. He said Botha's efforts were intended to divide Africans.

30 bodies recovered from Piper Alpha

LONDON (R) — Rescue workers have recovered 30 bodies from the living quarters of the Piper Alpha offshore oil platform, which was destroyed by fire in the North Sea with the loss of 167 lives, Scottish police said Tuesday. The rig's accommodation module, towed to the Orkney Islands off Scotland last week after being raised from the seabed, is believed to contain the corpses of up to 82 more victims of the world's worst offshore oil disaster.

Iran to end oil tanker shuttle

LONDON (R) — Iran plans to end an expensive tanker shuttle service used to protect its oil exports from Iraqi air raids in the Gulf war, Lloyd's List newspaper Tuesday. Attacks in the area of its main oil port, the Persian Gulf, have forced Iran to use a fleet of oil tankers to move oil from there to Sirri Island, 250 nautical miles to the east. Mohammad Souri, chairman of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), told Lloyd's List that Iran planned to resume exports from the Persian Gulf by year-end.

King Fahd meets Ordonez

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd discussed Arab and Islamic issues with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez Tuesday. Spanish diplomatic sources said. The meeting took place in Medina. Spanish embassy sources said Fahd's views were vital to a report Fernandez Ordonez will prepare on his visit to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries as Madrid prepares to assume chairmanship of the European Economic Community next year.

Kahane seeks return of U.S. citizenship

TEL AVIV (AP) — Brooklyn-born rabbi Meir Kahane, the anti-Arab militant who renounced his U.S. citizenship to run for Israel's parliament, said Tuesday he wants to be an American again. Kahane said he planned to fly to the United States Wednesday for a fund-raising tour, but U.S. officials said his passport was no longer valid and he would not be able to use it to gain entry. A U.S. embassy spokesman who demanded anonymity said Kahane formally renounced his citizenship Sept. 16, and Oct. 7 the U.S. State Department approved the certificate of loss of nationality.

Peru plane crashes with 65 on board

IMA (R) — A Peruvian passenger plane with 65 people on board crashed Tuesday shortly after takeoff high in the Andes, but at least 53 people were dragged from the wreckage alive, Aeroperu spokesman said. One stewardess was confirmed dead, and the fate of the remaining 11 people was not yet known, he said. Aeroperu spokeswoman Amalia Silva said the F-28 Fokker crashed minutes after taking off from the airport at Jaltaca in Puno province south of Lima. It was bound for Arequipa, Peru's second largest city. The Peruvian spokesman Freddy Chirinos said 53 people — 50 passengers, the pilot, co-pilot and a stewardess — were dragged from the plane alive and taken to the Jaltaca hospital. He said another stewardess has been confirmed dead, adding that the fate of the rest of the passengers was still unknown.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, who delivered to him a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad (Petra photo)

Special economic follow-up committee formed

Foreign exchange rates set for customs purposes

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Hanna Odeh Tuesday announced a decision fixing the exchange rates of foreign currencies against the Jordanian dinar with a view to facilitating the importation process, adopting firm exchange rates and stabilising the prices of imported commodities.

Greek drachma (for 10) — 29.10

The minister's decision was made in accordance with the Central Bank bulletin for the purpose of calculation and collection of customs duties on imported commodities.

Special committee formed

In another development, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Tuesday decided to form a special committee grouping secretaries-general of the ministries of industry and trade, finance and customs, supply, planning, agriculture and public works, the Central Bank of Jordan, the director of the Jordanian News Agency (Petra), and the Prime Ministry's economic advisor to follow up and ensure the smooth implementation of the recent economic measures and to achieve coordination among the various government ministries and departments.

The committee will also be in charge of maintaining direct contacts with the economic sectors concerned to get first-hand information about the economic situation and to study whatever procedures that may be needed to deal with any case that may arise and to propose solutions to rectify any irregular situation.

Following are the new exchange rates, which will be in force as of Oct. 28:

U.S. dollar	— 430 fils
Sterling pound	— 752.40
Deutschemark	— 239.80
French franc	— 70.15
Swiss franc	— 282.80
Italian lire (for 100)	— 32.20
Japanese yen (for 100)	— 339.35
Dutch guilder	— 212.65
Canadian dollar	— 363.95
Spanish peseta (for 10)	— 36.40
Australian dollar	— 351.10
Belgian franc (for 10)	— 114.40
Austrian shilling	— 34.10
Swedish crown	— 69.20
Norwegian kroner	— 64.30
Cypriot pound	— 907.95
Turkish lire (for 100)	— 25.60
Iraqi dinar	— 383.50
Kuwaiti dinar	— 1,532.50
Syrian lire	— 38.30
Saudi riyal	— 114.65
Danish crown	— 62.05

Benjedid rules out multi-party system

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid, defining the limits of political reforms planned after bloody riots this month, has ruled out allowing rival political groups in one-party Algeria.

In a nine-page communiqué, carried by the Algerian news agency APS late Monday, Benjedid outlined plans for more democratic controls of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), but said he was against a multi-party system.

However, in a move which reduces the dominant role of the FLN — the country's only official political party — Benjedid said non-FLN members would be able to stand for election to popular assemblies.

He hinted pluralism could eventually flow from the measures which he said would breathe fresh life into the FLN and spark debate and political actions.

"Multi-partyism can in no way be granted as soon as the debate begins to groups who are seeking power and privileges from a sham democracy," he said.

Benjedid's measures seek to broaden the base of the party by making it more democratic. FLN membership is to be widened and party officials made more accountable to rank and file members through elections to virtually every post.

Benjedid said the FLN would be a partner in Mahdi's coalition government, he added.

Last month Uganda announced that it would host a meeting between Mahdi and SPLA leader John Garang in Kampala Oct. 25.

William Vior, a SPLA representative temporarily resident in Nairobi, said a delegation of DUP leaders, including several members of parliament, were holding the talks with the SPLA in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

This is the third round of talks between the DUP, the second largest party in Sudan's parliament, and the SPLA since August. The last round was held in Addis Ababa Oct. 15 to 17.

Vior said Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi had apparently rejected dialogue with the SPLA in favour of a military solution to the five-year-old war in southern Sudan.

That was why the SPLA was now talking to the DUP, which

until may was a partner in Mahdi's coalition government, he added.

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King receives message from Assad

Syria, Jordan discuss Lebanon

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad dealing with the current situation in the Arab region and the latest developments in Lebanon.

The message was delivered to the King by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam during an audience at Al Nadwa Palace attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oqasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Khaddam, who later left Amman, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in a departure statement that he had an exchange of views with the King on the developments in Lebanon, and that the views were identical on the need for enhancing the unity and stability of Lebanon and achieving national reconciliation and political reforms in Lebanon.

"We, as Arabs, are concerned about the situation in Lebanon as an Arab country and about the developments there," he said.

"We are also in full agreement that the unity of Lebanon is the dear and valuable goal which we seek to achieve and protect."

As Khaddam, Syria's key official on Lebanese affairs, visited Amman, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa arrived in Kuwait and delivered a message from Assad to the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, an official Kuwaiti statement said.

The flurry in Syrian diplomatic activity followed calls for an emergency Arab summit to discuss Lebanon.

Sharaa told reporters in Kuwait that no one should expect "a speedy solution for the Lebanese crisis."

He said that a settlement in Lebanon, where a deepening constitutional crisis has heightened fears of formal partition, depended on "achieving political reform and national reconciliation" between the country's feuding factions.

Sharaa said he was satisfied with Sheikh Jaber's "valuable opinions concerning the Arab situation in general and the Lebanese situation in particular."

Asked about a call by several Arab leaders, led by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli troops kill Gaza girl

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops opened fire Tuesday on Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied Gaza Strip, killing a 14-year-old girl, hospital officials said.

The driver of an Israeli tanker fired into a crowded Gaza city vegetable market and wounded three Palestinians after his vehicle was hit by a firebomb, witnesses said. The bomb hit a tire, and did not cause serious damage, they said.

Another 15 Palestinians were wounded in clashes between troops and demonstrators in seven towns and refugee camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, hospital officials said.

The dead girl was identified as Manal Samour of the Shati refugee camp on the edge of Gaza City. She was dead on arrival at the city's Ahli hospital with a single bullet wound in the chest, said the hospital officials, who insisted on anonymity.

Doctors said the family removed the body for immediate burial.

Witnesses in Shati told the AP the girl apparently was struck

when soldiers fired on demonstrators from a rooftop post. The witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, said anti-Israeli protests erupted in the camp after news of the girl's death spread.

The camp later was put under curfew, the witnesses said. A curfew prohibits people from being on the streets.

The death raised to 311 the number of Palestinians killed since the Dec. 8 start of the uprising.

Also Tuesday, the army spokesman confirmed that soldiers fatally shot a 17-year-old Palestinian during a clash Monday in the Faras refugee camp near Nabulus.

The spokesman said troops fired rubber bullets after being attacked by protesters throwing bottles and rocks.

In the incident involving the tanker driver, three Palestinians were wounded, including a 50-year-old Palestinian hit in the chest, witnesses said. They said soldiers rushed to the scene, but fired only in the air to disperse the crowd.

(Continued on page 5)

Carbomb explodes in Bar Elias; 5 injured

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded Tuesday in the town of Bar Elias in the Bekaa Valley of east Lebanon as a Syrian armoured personnel carrier (APC) was passing. Police said five Lebanese civilians were wounded.

A police spokesman reached by telephone in Zahle, provincial capital of the Bekaa, said a white Mercedes-Benz packed with 40 kilograms of TNT blew up at 1:10 p.m. (1110 GMT) near a grocery on the Beirut-Damascus highway that runs through the town.

"It was detonated by remote control as the Syrian APC was rolling past the grocery. But it seems the vehicle and its occupants

escaped unharmed," said the spokesman.

He said the wounded civilians were taken by ambulances to a Zahle hospital.

Syrian troops cordoned off the blast scene for an hour.

Bar Elias, 45 kilometres south-east of Beirut.

No group claimed responsibility for Tuesday's bombing, the 16th car bombing in Lebanon this year. Altogether, 104 people have been killed and 282 wounded in these attacks since April 23.

Eight Syrian soldiers have been killed in west Beirut by bomb or gun attacks since Syrian troops moved into the city in February 1987 to end militia anarchy.

'French assassins killed Kennedy'

LONDON (R) — A British television documentary claims President John Kennedy was assassinated by a three-man French hit squad hired by the U.S. mafia.

The two-hour programme, "The Men Who Killed Kennedy," was due to be screened Tuesday night on commercial television in Britain after what its producers, Central Television, said were two years of research.

Former U.S. marine Lee Harvey Oswald was accused of killing Kennedy Nov. 22, 1963, but was shot dead in a Dallas police station by local night club owner Jack Ruby before he could stand trial.

The programme's director, Nigel Turner, told reporters it alleges that three gangsters from the French Mediterranean port of Marseilles received a "contract" from U.S. organised crime to kill Kennedy.

The documentary names one of the alleged hitmen as Lucien Sarti, whom it said was killed in Mexico in 1972.

According to Turner, his accomplices are still alive and will be identified in the programme. The film says the assassination was an attempt by U.S. organised crime to stop a crackdown ordered by Kennedy and carried out by the president's brother, then Attorney-General Robert Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1968.

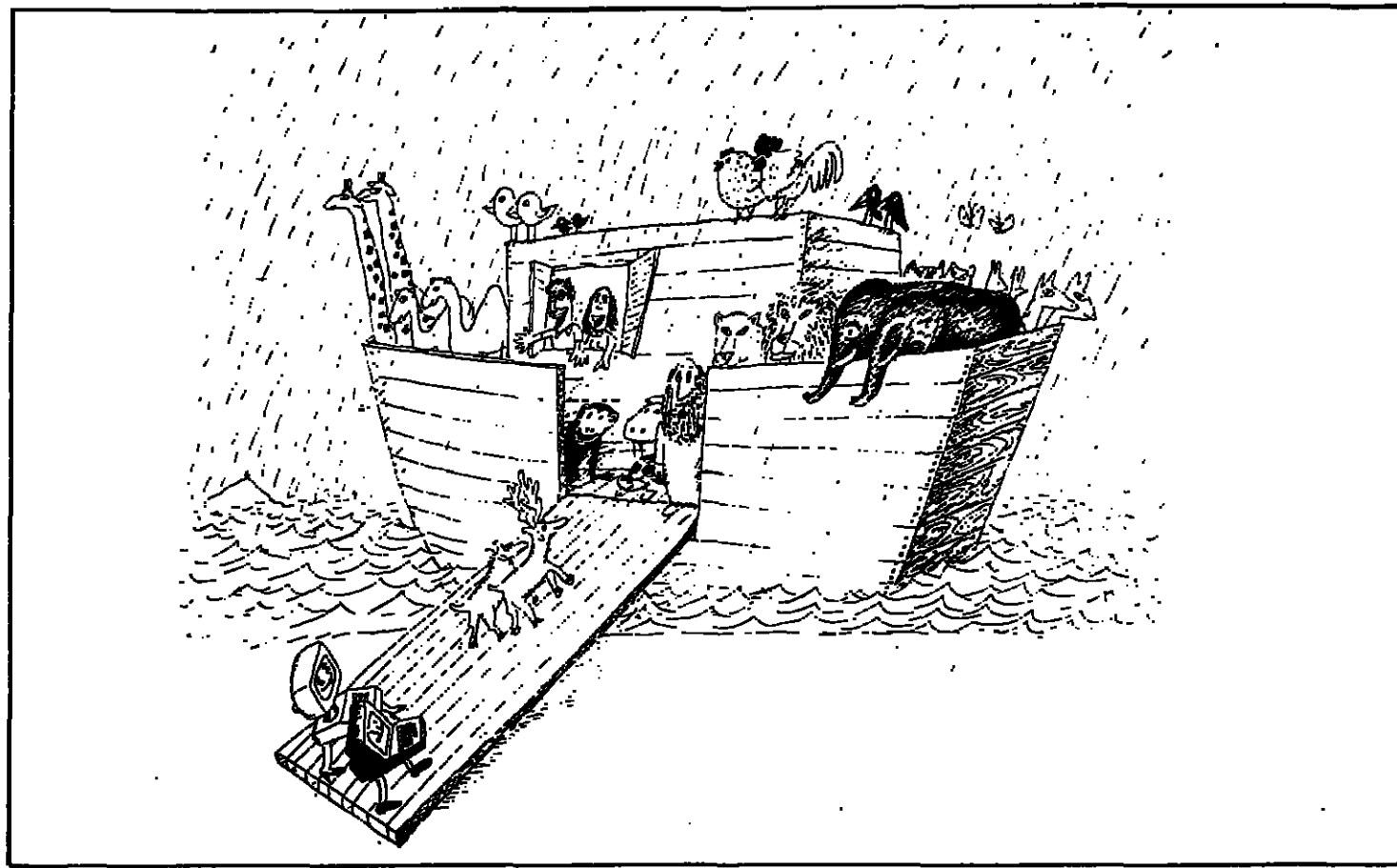
In a relatively short span of time, the number of computer users has risen dramatically in Jordan. The Jordan Computer Society aims to provide a forum for them, to enhance computer awareness in the country and to offer guidelines to private and public organisations, according to the society's president. **Najwa Najjar** reports:

AMMAN — Communication through computers is the fastest growing field worldwide. Although thousands of mini-computers are already in use in Jordan, a need to develop indigenous software for computers and to spread computer awareness and literacy in Jordan to enhance, or raise, the level of the profession has become increasingly apparent.

To meet this need, 12 individuals in 1984 founded the Computer Society. As a professional scientific society, its stated objective is to provide a forum for the computer activities, to study the profession's organisational matters, to spread computer awareness and to provide initial directions to private and public organisations, according to the president of the society, Ghassan Abdullah.

It took until 1986 for the society to be officially approved and until the beginning of 1987 for it to start functions. In the past year membership has grown to 306, of which 20 per cent are women.

Abdullah noted that more women are joining since they comprise 50 per cent or more of the computer students in community colleges and universities. One advantage that women have "is that they do not have to spend two years in the military, and therefore, do not forget what they have learnt," he said, pointing out that computer science is a "fast changing field."



Ushering in computer era into Jordan

When the first general assembly was held in April this year, 75 per cent of the members attending. Seventy five per cent of the members attending the first meeting was very significant for us, since most members of other associations usually do not attend the first meeting," said Abdullah.

Membership of the society requires that the applicant should be at least 22 years old, be recommended by two working members of one executive committee member of the society, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

— A university degree from an accredited institution in a related field to computers, with a minimum of two years experience in the same field.

— A university degree from an accredited institution, with a minimum of four years experience in the computer field.

— A junior college degree in a computer related field with a minimum of six years experience in the field.

— Practical experience of a minimum of 10 years in a computer related field.

In the past year, the members of the society have been preparing for "Amman Computer Expo" which will be held in March 1989; and holding bi-monthly lectures on computer topics such as data communication, computer management and computer development.

Abdullah noted that on Oct. 18 a lecture on "decision making systems" by Iyad Al Shukry from the Arab Bank will be held, the second this month. On Nov. 1 a lecture in English entitled "What computers cannot do" will be delivered by Nabil Bulos, from the American University in Beirut. Lectures are held at Abdul Hamid Shoman library.

Moreover, the society has been involved with government personnel in order to remove custom

Abdullah believes that one of the main reasons behind Jordan's underdevelopment in the computer field is "lack of awareness among the top management people in both the private and public sectors."

According to him, there is local expertise in computers, however, top managers and decision makers do not refer to the local expertise or the juniors in the company "who know a lot about computers." "Instead, they

"In the world of computers, change has become the only constant"

duties from all computer components. Abdullah explained that although there are no taxes on computers as such, "if a computer screen is ordered on its own, it is taxed just like a television set would be, and similarly with software. The disks are listed in the same category as musical records for tax purposes."

Contacts with the government are also continued to encourage government institutions to computerise their systems. "In general, Jordan is less computerised than the Gulf states, and a lot less than Israel," he said, pointing out as an example that out of the 33 insurance companies (the number before the merger of some) only five companies have mini-computer systems.

(managers and decision makers) turn to foreign expertise," which Abdullah admits may help Jordan in "some very specialised fields."

"But they may not always have the appropriate expertise for Jordan," he stressed. The society aims to attract national expertise in the computer field and direct it towards local needs.

To date, six special interest subcommittees in the various computer areas have been established, said Abdullah. The subcommittees include: information, social, standards, companies, finance and membership.

This does not rule out contacts with Arab and international computer societies to exchange publications, visits and co-ordinate on conferences and seminars.



Italian pianist in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Italian pianist of high reputation is shortly to give two free recitals of classical music in Amman. Miss Teresa Azzaro, 27 years old, trained at Conservatory of Santa Cecilia in Rome, and subsequently studied under Vera Gobbi Belcredi in Rome and Paolo Bordini in Milan. She currently teaches at a conservatory in Perugia. Miss

Azzaro has already performed extensively in Europe, and has toured Canada and Egypt. Her programme in Amman will include pieces by Cimarosa, Respighi, Beethoven and Prokofiev. Free tickets are available from the Italian embassy, who have organised the recitals in cooperation with Alitalia Airlines and Holiday Inn Hotels.

Soap box derby: Kid's event for grown-ups

AMMAN — The third annual Soap Box Derby, to be held at the Amman National Park at 3:00 p.m. on Friday Nov. 4, is certain to raise funds for a good cause and can prove to be fun for the family and children.

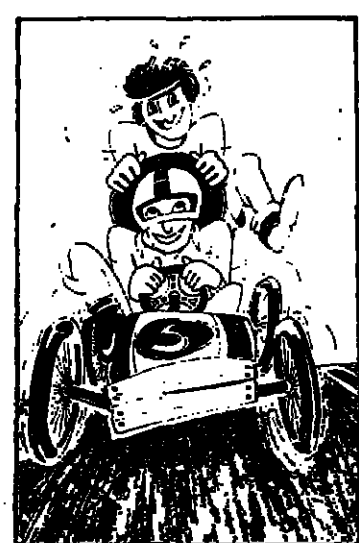
Sponsored by the Amman Marriott Hotel, British Airways, and the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), the Soap Box Derby is meant to be "a kids event for grown ups," according to Marriott's director of sales and marketing Jan Heesbeen.

The idea is for children to ride a car of their own making — without an engine — from a box and wheels. Heesbeen explained that the Soap Box Derby, a popular event among children in the U.S. was first introduced to Jordan as an idea to collect funds for specific causes.

Proceeds from this year's Derby will go to the Al Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

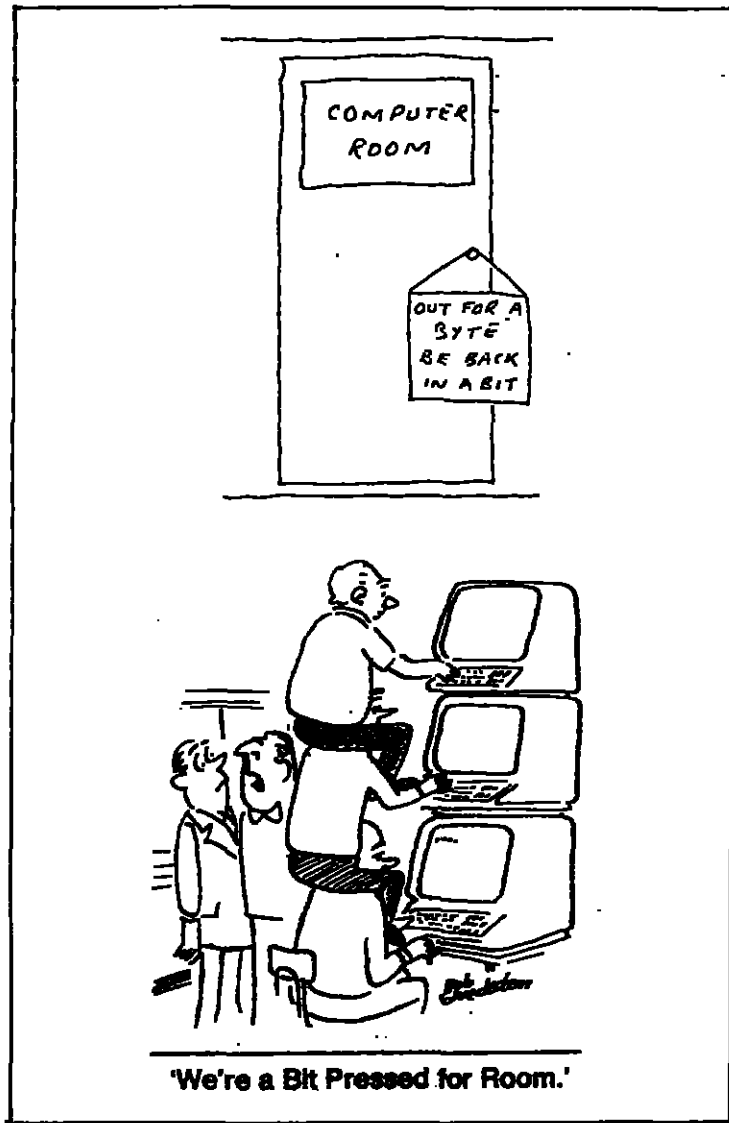
Entrance fees for the Derby are JD 50 per soap box (two persons per soap box) and those wishing to participate can look to companies for sponsorship.

Prizes for winners include two club class return tickets Amman-



London-Amman on British Airways; an Amman Marriott Hotel new year package that includes breakfast; a weekend stay at the Amman Marriott Hotel to include dinner and breakfast; in addition to the trophies for both crew members of the first three winning teams, to be presented by the Amman Marriott.

Contestants may still enter up until Thursday. For more information contact the RACJ at 815261.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Transport and Communications Minister Khalid Al Haj Hassan Tuesday chaired a meeting, attended by Director of Public Transport Corporation and an advisory team, entrusted with drawing up a study on means of developing transport in Amman. Haj Hassan said the team will also draw up a report on the executive steps for implementing an integrated public transport scheme for Amman (Petra).

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:50 Children's programmes
16:00 Kid Song
17:35 Scientific programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:15 Local series
19:00 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:10 Television magazine
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Wrestling

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui En Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:30 Korea, the Unknown War
22:00 News in English
22:20 Gentlemen and Players
23:10 Married with Children

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW
Tel: 774111-19
07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Animal Vegetable Mineral
11:30 Book Club
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 The Young Sound
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News in Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Science Report
18:30 Book Club
18:45 Old Favourites

19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
22:00 News Summary
23:00 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz
06:00 Newdesk 06:30 Katherine Mansfield Stories 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Financial News 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newdesk 08:30 Meridian 09:00 World News 09:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Development 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Classical Record Review 10:30 Round the Home 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 11:45 Folk in Britain 12:00 News Summary followed by Omnibus 12:30 Just a Minute 13:00 World News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15 Katherine Mansfield Stories 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newdesk 14:15 Smith and Son 14:25 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World News 15:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 Development 16:00 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News 16:45 Report on Religion 17:00 Radio Newdesk 17:15 Mastering Photography 17:30 The Million Pound Radio Show 18:00 World News 18:05 News about Britain 18:15 Celluloid Rock 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 20:00 Commentary 19:15 Society Today 19:30 News Ideas 19:40 Book Choice 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newdesk 20:30 Multitrack 21:00 News about Britain 21:30 News Summary 21:35 Stock Market Report 21:45 Good Books 22:00 World News 22:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Assignment 23:00 News Summary followed by Network UK 23:15 Celluloid Rock 23:45 Recording of the Week 24:00 World News 00:00 The World Today 00:30 Financial News 00:45 News 00:50 Reflections 00:55 Sports Roundup 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Write On... 01:30 Multitrack 2

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRATULATIONS: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of the government and people of Jordan on Austria's National Day. The King wished Waldheim continued good health and happiness and the Austrian people further progress and prosperity (Petra).

INDIAN DELEGATION: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received in his office India's chief justice and Mrs. R.S. Pathak who are now on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of Prince Hassan. Earlier, Pathak visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its President Jawad Al Anani and the Higher Council of Science and Technology Secretary General Adnan Badran (Petra).

SPORTS FESTIVAL: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday attended a sports festival organised by the Royal Artillery Corps. Prince Hassan and senior military officers watched a variety of sports events and a competition in dismantling and reassembling light weapons at the end of which, Prince Hassan distributed cups to the winners (Petra).

PRINCESS ALIA IN IRAQ: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Tuesday received Her Royal Highness Princess Alia and her husband, in the presence of Jordan's ambassador to Iraq and his wife. Princess Alia conveyed to President Hussein the best wishes of His Majesty King Hussein and congratulated him on the Iraqi victories (Petra).

ITALIAN ENVOY HONOURED: A lunch was hosted at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman Tuesday to honour Italian ambassador to Jordan Luigi Amaduzzi who has completed his tour of duty in the Kingdom. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayez Tarawneh, who hosted the lunch, paid tribute to the ambassador's efforts to bolster Italian-Jordanian relations, presented Amaduzzi with a gift and wished him success in his new endeavours.

COOPERATION WITH TURKEY: The Jordanian-Turkish ministerial committee for organising cooperation in cultural and tourism between the two countries Tuesday met in Ankara under the chairmanship of Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni and the Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism.

EGYPTIAN MINISTER TO ARRIVE: Egypt's Health Minister Ragheb Duweidar arrives here Wednesday on a several day official visit to Jordan for talks with his Jordanian counterpart Zaid Hamzeh on scopes of cooperation and exchange of expertise in the field of primary health care and drug control.

ART EXHIBITION: The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Assistant Secretary General Tuesday opened the three-week plastic art exhibition of the Jordanian artist Iyad Rustum Al Masri at the Housing Bank Complex.

AMIN CHAIRS MEETING: Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Tuesday chaired a meeting for the governorate's provincial governors and discussed with them issues pertaining to the development of their regions and the formation of local development councils to broaden public participation in the development process (Petra).

TOUQAN VISITS AQABA: Minister of Social Development Fawaz Touqan visited Aqaba district Tuesday and discussed with officials prospects of opening a social development office in Qweirah and a community centre at Wadi Araba (Petra).

MAURITANIAN CONFERENCE: Association of Arab Universities delegation, headed by the Association's Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Majid Al Said, Tuesday returned home from the Mauritanian capital of Nuakshot, where they took part in the preparatory meetings for the association council's 22nd session, due to convene there in February. Representatives of 73 Arab universities will be taking part in the council's session (Petra).

VIDEO EXHIBITION: Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday opened a week-long exhibition of audio visual technologies, including video recording and monitoring equipment, amplifiers, wireless, sound equipment, portable projectors and colour television units (Petra).

SCHOOLS IN MADABA: The Ministry of Education has built several schools in Madaba district during the first nine months of 1988 at the over-all cost of JD 1.082 million. A ministry spokesman said that the schools were set up at Lub, Malih, Dhiban and Madaba (Petra).

IRAQ EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENT: Jordan University of Science and Technology's Mohammad Al Maqoussi, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and the Baghdad-based Technology University, represented by Khaled Al Suwwan, cultural affairs advisor in Amman, Tuesday signed a programme of cooperation, designed to enhance cultural and educational ties between the two universities (Petra).

MAFRAQ SERVICES: Mafraq municipal department spent JD 325,000 on service projects in the various parts of the governorate this year. However, Mafraq municipality has allocated JD 305,000 for the construction of an industrial city and a slaughterhouse (Petra).

Swedish experts to lecture on 'abnormal motor development'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Institute of Child Health and Development in Sweileh, in cooperation with Jordanian Physiotherapy Society, and the Al Hussein Centre for the Physically Handicapped, present a conference on "abnormal motor development" at Al Hussein Centre for the Physically Handicapped in Amman Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 29-30, 1988, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Guest lecturers from Sweden will be physiotherapist Jenny Weibull, and paediatrician Staffan Jansson.

Those wishing to attend are requested to contact Saleh Oraibi at 817598-9 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A paintings exhibition by Alia Al Shanti Ammoura, at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, Jabal Amman.
- ★ A paintings exhibition by Sudanese artist Mohammad Khalil, at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ Drawing of cities, gardens, and commercial centres by German Artist Otto Herbert Hayek at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmed Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Sonia Delaunay at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A paintings exhibition by Hind Nasser Nasser at the Royal Cultural Centre — 1:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Book exhibition at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ Annual book exhibition at Prince Hassan Secondary School, Salt.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Salt Cultural Centre.
- ★ A cultural festival which includes national historical documents exhibition, book exhibition and other activities, at Ajloun Elementary School.
- ★ An educational technology exhibition at the Yarmouk University.

DOCUMENTARY

- ★ An Arabic programme on the Arab community in San Francisco at the American Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

Queen Noor inaugurates boys school at Jerash refugee camp

JERASH (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inaugurated a boys school at the Jerash refugee camp which will provide education to 1,640 students in the elementary and preparatory stages.

The Queen inspected the school facilities and classrooms and met with the students and the teaching staff.

At the same time work began on the construction of a girls school in the camp which houses nearly 17,000 refugees living in Jordan since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The Japanese government has provided a \$1 million grant for the construction of both schools each of which consists of three floors of reinforced concrete with 18 classrooms and other facilities.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe, the director general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Jordan, Mr. Ele Saaf, and a number of government and UNRWA officials.

Japan's aid to Palestinian refugees since 1953 amounted to \$140 million and Tokyo continues to make an annual contribution of about \$20 million through UNRWA in addition to food donations and vocational and technical training programmes.

Japan is second only to the United States among the donor countries contributing to UNRWA's operations.

After the Queen inspected an exhibition organised at the school, displaying photographs and handicraft products.

She heard a briefing by the UNRWA director on the agency's operations and plans to improve education services to refugee children.

One of the school teachers presented the Queen with a gift and two others to Japan's ambassador and Japan's representative at the U.N. headquarters in Vienna who is currently visiting Jordan.

The new boys school replaces an old and dilapidated prefabricated structure which was found to be no more useful as a school building. The Queen visited the old girls school building which will also be replaced by the new structure on which work has just started.

The Japanese government's grant for the schools was announced following a visit to Tokyo by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Japan's foreign ministers' visit to the camp in September last year.

At the ceremony, the Queen paid tribute to Jordanian-Japanese relations in all fields, and expressed hope that the coming stage will witness further development in bilateral cooperation.

Hindawi told the meeting that such pilot schools will serve as a convenient arena for creative and promising students and added that the idea of such schools was



Her Majesty Queen Noor inspects facilities at the new Jerash refugee camp school for boys Tuesday (Petra photo)

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Hindawi told the meeting that such pilot schools will serve as a convenient arena for creative and promising students and added that the idea of such schools was

advocated by the national conference which regarded it as an attempt towards the development of education.

A pilot school, the minister noted, will provide integrated services according to plans which will be laid down by the school administration and will take into account the students' education in relation to the needs of the local community.

Such a school, he added, will contribute to bolstering relations between the educational institutions and the local communities in Jordan.

In reviewing the education process in the Kingdom, Hindawi said that the 1950s were marked by an educational growth in terms of quantity and horizontal expansion. The 1960s were characterized with improvements in syllabuses and school textbooks. The 1970s focused on improving vocational training and the 1980s concentrated on improving the quality of education and educational administration.

He said that the new phase focuses on reform and comprehensive improvement in the educational system through a well planned programme to be carried out in stages.

"It is hoped that pilot schools will serve as a model for the rest of the schools in each governorate," the minister pointed out.

He called on educators to discuss the subject of pilot schools and to come up with proposals to help their success.

According to ministry officials several committees have been set up in each governorate to take charge of the process and to follow up the implementation of ministry resolutions concerning pilot schools.

The Ministry of Education's Secretary General Munther Al Masri told the meeting that the pilot schools will not give education to distinguished students alone but rather to all types of students of various abilities without exception.

He said that the ministry will cooperate closely with departments of education and teachers to help spread the pilot school idea to other regions.

Discussion that followed the speeches dwelt on the project's various aspects.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education plans to introduce the concept of pilot schools as a model project in the Kingdom on an experimental basis as of the beginning of the coming month in implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein and upon an initiative from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi announced Tuesday.

The pilot schools will serve as a contribution by the Ministry of Education to the overall reform of the national educational system, in line with resolutions passed by the first national educational conference in Amman last year, the minister said at a meeting of senior ministry officials and directors of education at the Princess Alia School in Amman.

According to ministry officials pilot schools of which one at least will be available in each province, are to have proper school facilities such as classrooms, playgrounds, laboratories, libraries, workshops, multi-purpose auditoriums, qualified staff and other essential facilities operating under a qualified and skilled school administration.

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Ministry to introduce pilot schools as model projects in all provinces

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Such a school, he added, will contribute to bolstering relations between the educational institutions and the local communities in Jordan.

In reviewing the education process in the Kingdom, Hindawi said that the 1950s were marked by an educational growth in terms of quantity and horizontal expansion. The 1960s were characterized with improvements in syllabuses and school textbooks. The 1970s focused on improving vocational training and the 1980s concentrated on improving the quality of education and educational administration.

He said that the new phase focuses on reform and comprehensive improvement in the educational system through a well planned programme to be carried out in stages.

"It is hoped that pilot schools will serve as a model for the rest of the schools in each governorate," the minister pointed out.

He called on educators to discuss the subject of pilot schools and to come up with proposals to help their success.

According to ministry officials several committees have been set up in each governorate to take charge of the process and to follow up the implementation of ministry resolutions concerning pilot schools.

The Ministry of Education's Secretary General Munther Al Masri told the meeting that the pilot schools will not give education to distinguished students alone but rather to all types of students of various abilities without exception.

He said that the ministry will cooperate closely with departments of education and teachers to help spread the pilot school idea to other regions.

Discussion that followed the speeches dwelt on the project's various aspects.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh has described rumours about the government's intention to dissolve the boards of directors of various professional and trade unions in the country as baseless. The cabinet has not discussed such a move and union boards are gains for professional people of which all Jordanians are proud, the minister said in statements to Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The government has no plans to dissolve these boards and it is astonishing to hear such rumours which could have been connected with the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank, Khasawneh noted.

The minister described the severing of ties with the West Bank as having come in response to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO's) wishes but this, he said, can by no means lead to a

separation of the two peoples or indicate a sell-out of the idea of a pan-Arab unity. The Jordanian decision was designed to enable the PLO to deal with all political aspects of the Palestinian problem and to give support to the PLO's international endeavours to find a solution for the problem especially through an international conference, the minister added.

Asked on the recent meeting in Aqaba between His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, Khasawneh said it was a welcome event for all Arabs, and one that proved that coordination and cooperation were essential for the Arabs to reach a peaceful and lasting settlement for the Palestine question.

The minister said Jordan was still oriented towards pan-Arab unity but it is premature not to say anything about a future confederal state between Palestine and Jordan in view of the coming Palestine National Council's meeting which could declare the establishment of a Palestinian state. We hope that the PLO will succeed in its endeavours to serve the Palestinians; and Jordan will extend all support for the PLO leadership to help it attain that goal, the minister noted.

Khasawneh denied rumours that the PLO has withdrawn its funds deposited in Jordan's banks and said that such a move can by no means serve any party. But, he said, that according to law any citizen or organisation can withdraw funds the way they like with no restrictions.

The minister also denied that the Aqaba mini summit was intended as a sort of pressure on the Israeli electorate. Israel has always claimed that the Arabs did not want peace, and the Aqaba meeting proved to the world that the Arab nation was seeking a just and durable peace through an international conference, the minister said. He added "one has to remember that it was Israel which always aborted all initiatives leading to a permanent peace with its neighbours."

Tarawneh urges efforts to organise civil defence throughout the world

The following is a reprint of a news item which appeared in Pakistan Times earlier this month. THE 21ST executive council meeting of International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) held in Islamabad on Sunday with the inaugural address of the President of the Organisation, Public Security Department Director Lt.-Gen. Khalid Tarawneh, in which he called for making extensive efforts to organise and strengthen civil defence throughout the world.

The President said the meeting has provided an opportunity to

discuss ways and means to promote civil defence, with sharing of experience of each other country.

Tarawneh also said that the ICDO help promote friendly relations, international peace and prosperity. The President also thanked the delegates drawn from all over the world, specially the government of Pakistan for availing this august occasion to meet and discuss the future course of actions throughout the world.

He said that the ICDO had been contributing towards the prevention of natural and man-

made disasters. He exhorted upon the participants to make strenuous efforts to boost up civil defence activities in their respective countries.

Earlier, the Secretary-General, Mr. Sadok Znaidi, Iraqi delegate, Mr. Imad Hussain, Indonesian delegate, Mr. Hadi Ahmad Wayrabi and Saudi delegate, Lt.-Gen. Hashem M. Abbur Rehman put forward the proposals for the next meeting and gave very useful suggestions for the improvement of the organisation. The Secretary-General thanked all the participants of 21st executive council.

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Exhibition reveals Nasser as innovative and bold artist

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than ever, this latest exhibition of the work of Hind Nasser, the sixth solo show she has held in Amman, reveals her as a tremendously innovative and bold artist. Defying easy categorisation, her oil paintings, both the monumental and the small, encompass many themes and emotions which reflect the wealth of Nasser's ideas and her relentless pursuit of them.

Unafraid of change, Nasser is an artist who constantly struggles to move forward producing works often very different in character which are nevertheless unified by her indestructible and innate sense of colour. These many different approaches to her art have now become the hallmark of her work, the end result being that her exhibitions are never predictable or boring.

Essentially quite complex, Nasser's work is often inaccessible. Time will alter your perception of what she is achieving, instant judgements just cannot be made. Her work has the ability to stop you in your tracks and force you to rethink your own ideas. And this is all the more impressive when one knows how Nasser paints. Working at great speed on several ideas at once, Nasser, oblivious or rather invulnerable, to comments and criticisms produces new paintings that confound her admirers and critics alike leaving them to struggle along behind, only to catch up with her later.

Yet all the while her own unswerving and rigorous self criticism is in action, giving her the ability to disregard or repent any painting she considers inferior.

All this makes Nasser's work difficult to describe in terms of what she is doing and how she has progressed, but broadly speaking there is a sense in this show that Nasser has achieved a greater

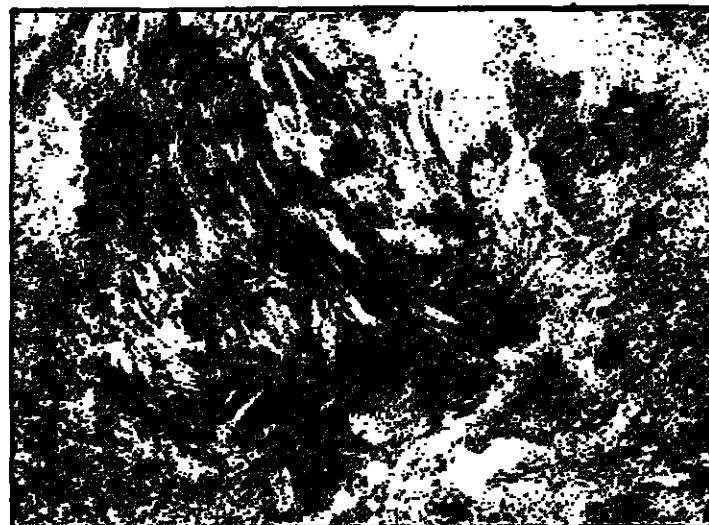
confidence expressed predominantly in her use of colour, her perennial mainstay.

We can see this confidence emerge by looking back at Nasser's slightly earlier paintings and working through to her latest pieces. Personified by the very evocative "Nebula" painting, a huge oil in which glorious blues sweep across the canvas to become a mountain pass filled with snow overhung by an evening sky streaked with red, we can see that these earlier paintings are emotional more accessible works that cannot fail to move one. Beautifully painted, the colours in these pieces move imperceptibly one into the other so that, as in her smaller landscapes, horizons simply melt into skies while curving yellow paths slide into fields of late spring corn.

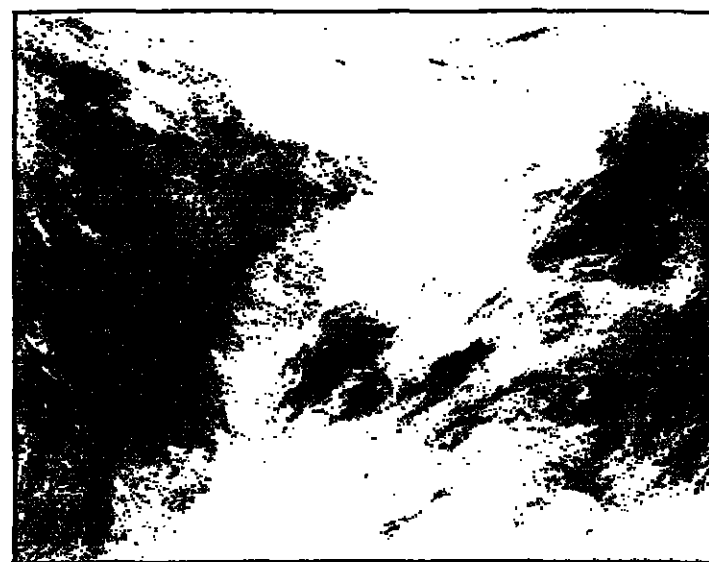
ART REVIEW

In all of them, the application of the paint is smooth and generous and brought to life by streaks of unexpected purples, reds, pinks, yellows, blues and greens.

These paintings lead onto more wild, much darker abstracts (Sea Anemones, Galaxies, and Tree of Life) which throbb and surge with restless energy. Something in them puts one in mind of Michaelangelo's half finished statues which seem to struggle to be free from the marble in which they are wrought. But while they are caught forever, Nasser breaks loose and goes on to produce such pieces as Fiesta and Exuberance. In these wild and very abstracted landscapes Nasser's colours run riot. The cliff face is picked out in rich vermilion, emerald greens, yellows and purples which glow a little surreally with light under a deep midnight blue sky and instead of flowing one into the other as in her earlier work, these colours act as the lines that give the composition its



Two of the paintings by Hind Nasser on display at the Royal Cultural Centre



form, depth and balance. These difficult paintings are totally successful and their exciting juxtaposition of colour allows them to dominate the show.

Finally combining both the wildness of her later landscapes with the more serene feel of her earlier works is a small series of paintings that seem to throw out, like a volcano, molten paint and rocks of colour which destroy the peace, the cool calm of the silky smooth backgrounds.

Completing the exhibition are several large realistic landscapes, particularly good among which is one of the countryside outside

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Strengthen peace overtures

THE PLO's statement Monday appealing to Jewish and Arab voters in the Israeli general elections to vote for peace and justice is as intriguing as it is novel. It has been clear for decades that without a significant shift in Israeli public opinion, the stalemate in the Arab-Israeli conflict would continue for a very long time. Neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians are capable of beating the other single-handedly, and pan-Arab support for the Palestinian cause assures the perpetuation of the Palestinian struggle for national rights in Palestine.

It has also been clear that the significant shift in Palestinian and pan-Arab peace terms since the Fes Summit of 1982 — we now talk of peace through an international conference, where negotiations would work out an Israeli withdrawal, a Palestinian state and security guarantees for all states in the region — has not been fully appreciated in Israel. Or, if the Israelis appreciate what we say but simply refuse to change their position, then we still reach the same conclusion.

The Arab World, particularly the Palestinians, needs to make its terms for justice and peace so clear that there can be no excuse for Israelis to misunderstand what we are saying. If Israel still refuses to change, then we have to consider whatever other options that we have — or that our children will have.

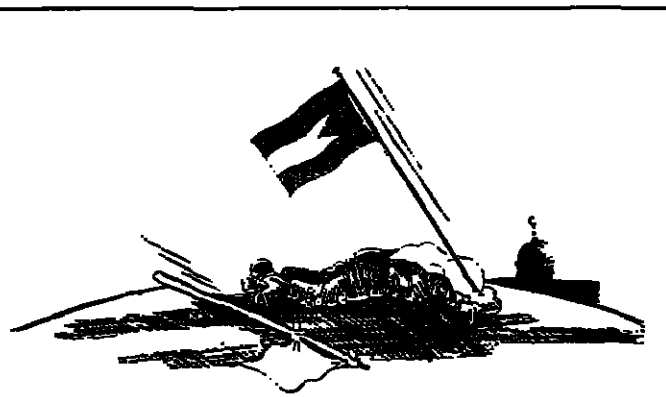
It is therefore clear for the PLO to make direct overtures to the voters of Israel, because strengthening the political hand of those Israeli parties which accept coexistence with a Palestinian state is an important step towards shifting the centre of gravity of the entire Israeli political system.

Clarity from the Arab side is also likely to encourage more clear responses, and more activist policies, by those quarters in Israel that already agree to peace negotiations based on the twin rights of Israelis and Palestinians to national self-determination. It might be useful if other Arab voices were to emulate the PLO, and to strengthen Arab peace overtures to the point where they cannot be easily ignored in Israel.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday commented on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the Jordan Press Foundation — Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times — and his meeting with the editors and staff of both newspapers. Monday was not an ordinary day for the Jordan Press Foundation... it was a feast that overwhelmed all staff members with delight and gave them further impetus to pursue their efforts to serve their country through their valuable work, the paper noted. The paper quoted the King as expressing hope that Jordanian newspapers will serve as a minaret for mobilising all members of the Jordanian family to work, with greater dedication and loyalty to serve their nation. The paper also quoted the King as underlining the importance of constructive criticism which he said can help focus light on problems and enable concerned authorities to deal with any situation. The paper pledged loyalty to the monarch and his wise leadership and further efforts leading to progress.

Al Dustour daily commented on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to the United Nations Development Programme office in Amman on U.N. day, and said the U.N. organisation bears a serious responsibility in alleviating the sufferings of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule. Prince Hassan urged the U.N. organisation to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the economic and social fields and bolster their steadfastness in the face of Israel's practices, the paper said. It said that accurate information and data on the Palestinian people are essential; and quoted Prince Hassan as urging the U.N. organisation to provide such information to thwart Israel's efforts aimed at distorting facts and figures about the situation in the Arab region. Prince Hassan's proposal to the U.N. should be carefully studied by the U.N. and supported by the Arab Nation which faces Israel's continued drive to evict the Arab population and its inaccurate information about the Palestinian people and their conditions, the paper said. The paper echoed Prince Hassan's appreciation for the U.N. organisation for its efforts to assist the Sudanese people in the face of natural disasters.

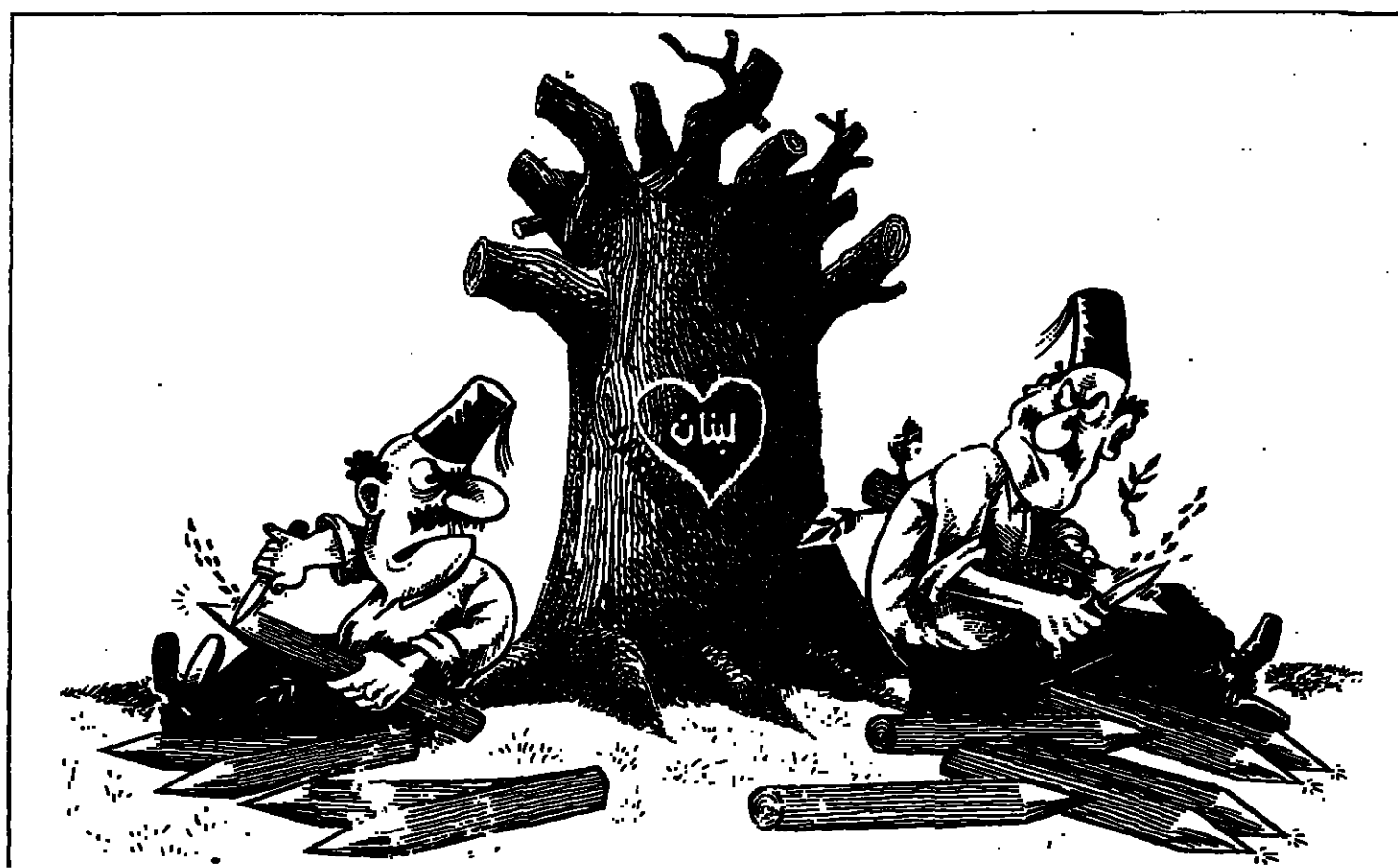


Rabah — Al Ra'i

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Summit for Lebanon

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday describes current efforts to hold an Arab summit meeting to discuss the crisis in Lebanon as of immense significance following the failure of the two governments in the embattled country to reach any formula that would ensure peace. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that the Arabs who held two successful summit meetings in Amman and Algiers are now called on to hold another successful meeting on Lebanon to try to stop the bleeding and prevent a partition of that country. Having tried all other means of settling the question of electing a president and failed in reaching a compromise acceptable to all parties, the Lebanese are now turning their attention towards their kinsmen and pinning their hopes on the Arab countries. Rimawi notes. He says that Lebanon has served for many years as an open market for Arab countries and an arena where other Arabs used to meet for financial dealings and economic consultancy and other services. He says Lebanon has always been so close to the Arabs and therefore it was high time that the Arabs met and found a peaceful solution to the crisis.



Total partition of Lebanon impossible

By Zina Hemady
Reuters

BEIRUT — Lebanon's warring communities daily erect higher barriers to a peaceful life together, but economists and diplomats say they will never be able to live totally apart.

They say battered Lebanon's full partition into autonomous mini-states, widely seen as an inevitable trend of civil war, is impossible because it would amount to economic suicide.

"I am convinced partition cannot take place as all economic activity in the country would cease," economist Farid Baz told Reuters.

"If it did occur, that would be the end of everything."

With Lebanon struggling under its worst political crisis in 45 years of independence, the spectre of rigid partition is uppermost in warnings from its rival governments, regional power broker Syria and the United States.

Lebanon now has no head of state, Christian and Muslim-led governments have been vying for power for the past month and parliament proved so divided that it could not elect a speaker.

But economists and diplomats said warnings of the country's approaching destruction through

partition were largely aimed at shaming the politicians.

They said the most that would happen on the ground was a hardening of the painful barriers which physically and mentally divide the estimated 2.7 million Lebanese. Real division into separate parts could never be sustained.

"From time to time, one side may say it welcomes partition in place of bloodshed," said a Western diplomat. "But when they stop to think, they realise that it would be very bad for business."

Impoverished by 13 years of civil war, galloping inflation and the collapse of the national currency, Lebanon is too weak to sustain actual partition, economists said.

The first people to be hit would be the thousands who trek to work every day through the ruins of the green line battle zone dividing east Beirut from the west.

"I have a family which depends on my salary. If this money is cut, who knows how long it would take me to find another job," said 47-year-old Selim Eid, a father of three.

Eid, a technician at the Beirut University College in west Beirut, lives in the Christian sec-

tor and has risked his life by crossing the green line since the civil war started in 1975.

Trucks crammed with flour, fruit, vegetables and petrol line up every evening to cross the line with the tons of goods which one side of the city sells to the other.

"The most crucial question to be asked in case of partition is whether the resulting separated entities are economically viable," said an economist who declined to be identified. "They are not."

At the centre of the trade is the Lebanese pound which, despite an alarming plunge in value, remains perhaps the strongest bond between Lebanese.

"It's the last link that remains between the Lebanese," said Baz. "The destruction of the pound means (full) partition."

Economists said the division of Beirut had led government institutions to decentralise, but the Christian and Muslim sectors were still, and would remain, heavily interdependent.

West Beirut has the central bank, with over 60 per cent of Lebanon's gold reserves worth \$3.6 billion and \$1.25 billion in foreign reserves stored in its underground vaults.

East Beirut and nearby Christ-

ian-controlled areas contain the main power stations and water and sewerage treatment plants as well as flour mills and petrol and gas storage depots.

Beirut's port, the only one in Lebanon large enough to handle oil tankers, is also under Christian control.

Most foreign and Christian-owned businesses fled to the relative safety of east Beirut in 1984 when the Muslim sector fell under the control of Muslim milit-

But, though Christian areas are more self-sufficient than Muslim areas, both private and public institutions based in east Beirut need access to the entire Lebanese market and all its resources to sustain their profits, the economists said.

"One cannot make a list of the things they (the Christians) have there and what the rest of Lebanon has and say either is at an advantage or disadvantage," said businessman Maurice Khoury.

"The port, power stations and flour mills were created to service a much bigger market than the Christian east," said Khoury, whose company specialises in market research and economic forecasting.

"Without the rest of Lebanon, they will go bust in no time."

Lebanon, with two governments and no president, fears the worst

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — With two half-governments and no president, Lebanese citizens say their tiny Mediterranean country is slowly slipping into the abyss after 13 years of civil war capped in the last month by constitutional turmoil.

"This is the worst crisis we've ever had," declared veteran politician Kazem Khalil, 88, the eldest of Lebanon's parliamentary deputies and an architect of the country's independence from France in 1943.

"The political, social and economic systems have ceased to exist. We just don't know where we're heading," he told reporters a few days ago.

He echoed the despair of most Lebanese at the creeping partition of the country into Muslim and Christian cantons hastened by parliament's failure to elect a new president to succeed Amin Gemayel when his 6-year term expired Sept. 23.

Parliamentary efforts failed because Christian deputies, opposed to Syrian-backed candidates who were the most serious

contenders, boycotted the electoral sessions, blocking the required 51-member quorum.

Gemayel appointed army commander Gen. Michel Aoun, like himself a Maronite Catholic, head of a caretaker military government minutes before he stepped down.

But acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim, declared that his cabinet installed under Gemayel was the legitimate authority.

Three Muslim army officers named as ministers under Aoun quit, leaving the general with two Christian officers in his cabinet. All but one of the Christians in Hoss' cabinet resigned and handed their ministries to Aoun.

No speaker too

The crisis was deepened last week by parliament's failure to elect a new speaker to succeed Hussein Hussein, a pro-Syrian Shi'ite Muslim, when the Christians boycotted that session as well.

Khalil, another Shi'ite who was named as interim speaker until a new one can be elected, lamented: "We have no presi-

dent and parliament is lost. What is there to help Lebanon survive?"

The United States, which had sought with the Syrians to produce a compromise candidate for the presidency, have backed off getting embroiled in the Lebanese quagmire again to head off cementing the de facto partition caused by the civil war.

For the time being at least, Washington has put its Lebanon efforts on hold until after the Nov. 8 presidential election.

"The United States now appears to be as much at a loss about Lebanon as the leaders of Lebanon themselves," said one well-informed Lebanese, who insisted on anonymity.

"The Americans want to maintain some sort of status quo until after the election next month," he told the Associated Press.

"They've made it plain to all sides that no-one can be allowed to trigger off a new round of fighting in the civil war."

Despite widespread fears that the constitutional crisis will touch off new fighting, there have been only sporadic clashes between Christians and Muslims.

Nonetheless, the threat lingers

that the war could erupt again if no solution is found.

Armed to the teeth

"The Christians are armed to the teeth," a senior Lebanese army officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They can defend themselves against any Muslim or Syrian attack, but at the same time, they can't attack or make any territorial gains."

"There's a balance of firepower that holds both sides in check from resuming a war no-one can win."

But the Christians, bunkered down in their shrunken enclave north of Beirut, remain a challenge to Syria's efforts to bring its unruly neighbour to heel and secure its vulnerable western flank against Israel.

Many Lebanese feel it is only a matter of time before the Syrians, or their Lebanese allies, will have to move against the Christians.

Meantime, the hapless Lebanese are caught in the crossfire. The Lebanese pound has nosedived against foreign currencies, heightening the economic hardships the Lebanese have endured for years.

OPEN FORUM

Healthy standards please

WITH the convening of the Arab pharmaceutical industry conference on the problems and challenges of marketing, one cannot but hope for steps to be taken towards a better and improved industry in this field. One cannot deny that there are advanced factories in Jordan, and many are better than most others in the rest of the Arab World.

However, some of these factories do not produce certain drugs that one can say are up to the standard of those produced by internationally recognised industries in Europe and the United States. For example, I have experienced incidences where I used a certain locally-produced medicine for a common cold for my child, and his condition did not improve; but when I used another medicine produced in the U.S., his cold disappeared in two days. So, when he suffered subsequent colds, I immediately used the medicine that worked, which in this case was the Western one. I have also heard of similar cases with other people who faced the same situation.

A major theme that runs through this conference is what can be done to improve the marketing of Arab pharmaceutical products. I believe, along with many others, that the factories should start producing the best possible products if they want to compete honestly with well-known Western manufacturers.

Many of us hope that we, the consumers, would be seriously considered when participants discuss the final recommendations at the end of the conference. We hope that the industry owners go beyond their own self-interest and think of providing the best medicines for their citizens.

Many of us fear that a decision would emerge from this conference that protects the Arab pharmaceutical products in Jordan when they still have some way to go before achieving the standards the consumers expect. We are worried that as a result of this conference, a decision would be made to encourage the marketing of Arab drugs for the sake of improving their sales. After all, we should have the right of choice on what medicine would be best for us.

There is another problem that many consumers also face, that of cost. A strategy must be formulated in order to provide the best drugs and at reasonable prices. Some of us may be able to afford buying the best medicine from the West, but many cannot afford to do that, so they end up buying low quality medicines only because they are cheaper.

The ideal situation for us would be to buy cost-effective, locally produced drugs that are truly up to standard — and this takes a lot of time, expert research and very serious work.

Sana Atiyeh

U.S. presidential election — trial by morality test

By Graham Earnshaw
Reuters

NEW YORK — History is full of great leaders with dubious moral standards, but if you want to be president of the United States nothing less than squeaky-clean will do.

Personal morality has played a big role in the current presidential election campaign and is becoming an increasingly important litmus test for much of the American public as they try to choose between the candidates.

Two Democratic contenders were forced out of the race early over moral issues.

Former Senator Gary Hart bowed out because of questions about his relationship with Miami model Donna Rice and Senator Joe Biden quit when it was reported that he had lifted parts of a speech from British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

Republican vice-presidential candidate Senator Dan Quayle had his past carefully dissected under the media's moral microscope after he was selected.

And last week, an aide to Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis resigned after declaring that Republican candidate George Bush should comment publicly on unsubstantiated reports that he had had an affair.

"I think (personal morality) is becoming a great deal more important and there's a good reason for that," said Ted Smith, associate professor of mass communications at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"I believe that in the modern world, issues change so rapidly that it is very different to select someone based on the issues of the moment. That leaves you two other options — one is ideology, the other is morality or character."

Personal morality

Robert Shapiro, associate pro-

fessor of political science at Columbia University in New York, said he was struck by voters' stress on personal morality rather than political morality.

Bush, he pointed out, had hardly been affected by the Reagan administration's moral record in terms of the Iran-contra affair and the number of officials dismissed for shady practices.

"It is personal morality that is more of concern than general political morality," Shapiro said. "The political morality having to do with deception and manipulation in government seems to bother people a lot less, for some reason."

Dr. Bill Lydon, political science department administrator at Ohio State University, said: "It appears at the moment that anything to do with sex comes up in this country and it immediately converts into a morality issue, and it can be devastating."

"The press feasts on it and the public instantly leaps to conclusions about people based on sexual morality."

President John Kennedy was reported to be a womaniser during his years in the White House but the reports surfaced only several years after his assassination.

The Republican Party's presidential candidate in 1940, Wendell Wilkie, was open about having a mistress. However, the press stayed well clear of the whole issue.

"There was a very well understood line between personal and public life back then," said Smith. "I think it's tragic that he was transgressed that line. I think sexual proclivities are close to being irrelevant in terms of character judgment."

Both Bush and Dukakis have assured the voters over and again that they are for traditional "family values" and their wives and children play an important part in the media package assembled to sell them to the public.

Hundreds remember grisly but pivotal Al Alamein battle

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

AL ALAMEIN, Egypt — Kilt-wearing bagpipers returned to this barren wasteland Sunday, 46 years to the day after another generation's pipers led their Commonwealth comrades into the grisly 12-day battle that would change the course of World War II.

Under a hot, hazy sun, the mournful strains of "flowers of the forest" rolled over the desert bleakness where, on Oct. 23, 1942, infantrymen followed screeching martial music against German and Italian troops softened up by a massive nighttime artillery barrage. Italian troops softened up by a massive nighttime artillery barrage.

The second battle of Al Alamein, which ended early on Nov. 4 with the Germans and Italians withdrawing toward

Libya in the rain and mud, cost 72,500 killed, wounded and captured; 13,500 for the Commonwealth, 59,000 for the Axis.

The battle, pitting English Gen. Bernard Law Montgomery against the elite Panzer Forces of the German military mastermind, Field Marshal George Rommel, was the war's first and only major battle won by British-commanded troops.

Since 1978, war heroes from both sides have been honoured in a joint ceremony on the Sunday nearest Oct. 23, held in turn at the Commonwealth cemetery and the Italian and German memorials to the west. A smaller ceremony is held at the Greek memorial east of Al Alamein.

British Defence Secretary George Younger brought a delegation of 41, including 12 war widows and 17 veterans, to

Sunday's 90-minute service attended by about 1,500.

The Last Post

"They shall not grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn," read Robert Simpson, the Commonwealth war graves commission's director for North Africa. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

Diplomats and families of both sides' heroes laid more than 40 wreaths, and buglers sounded "The Last Post." Then two minutes of silence for the dead, and the three pipers of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders played from atop the cemetery's cloistered entrance.

The Commonwealth cemetery, its yellow Sahara dust offset by plants in greens, whites, pinkish purples and reds, holds

graves for 7,352 soldiers from more than a dozen countries. U.S. Ambassador Frank G. Wisner, who laid a wreath with "U.S.A." on it, said 12 American airmen lie in the cemetery.

They were forerunners of a huge American effort in North Africa led by Gen. George Patton, who arrived too late to help Montgomery at Al Alamein but later encountered Rommel's retreating forces in Libya.

For war widows in black and old soldiers with ribbons hanging from lapels, Al Alamein remains acutely personal.

From retaining wall to retaining wall are rows and rows of gravestones, 6,537 with names, 815 "known only to God." Many bear poignant farewell messages from loved ones far away.

Greater Love

There is Pvt. J. Fleming, who

died at age 19 on the battle's first night, with this from the gospel of St. John: "Greater Love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

J. McM. Gibson, 25, also a first-night casualty in 1942: "Remembrance is a golden chain that binds us till we meet again."

And W.H. Greatbatch, 20, a driver: "In proud and loving memory of duty honourably done by our dear son."

And another private from the same regiment, J.W. Jackson, 22: "At rest in God's beautiful garden, sheltered from sorrow and pain."

Archdeacon Howard Levett of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt led the ceremony, aided by Italian and German clerics. Each prayed in his native language.

Levett called on world lead-

ers to "rid the world of wars... among all nations... and to free the world of hatred, bitterness and all spirit of revenge."

The spectators included military attaches from embassies in Cairo, 240 kilometres to the southeast, each in the uniform of his country. Additionally, two buses brought officers and men from the U.S., French, New Zealand and Italian contingents to the multinational force and observers, peacekeepers along the Israel-Egypt border in the Sinai peninsula.

Col. Ronald V. Growden, a Pennsylvania air force attaché at the U.S. embassy, said the ceremony had special significance for him because his father died in World War II.

"I think the ceremony is very touching, very appropriate," he said. "It's something for our generation to learn from."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti paper: Labour Party no dove

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti newspaper Tuesday criticised Arab leaders who believe a Labour Party victory in Israel's November 1 general elections could help the Palestinian cause. "Why do they issue calls to our people inside (the occupied territories) to vote for one killer against another?" Al Watan asked in an editorial. It noted the Labour Party's role in four wars against the Arabs and said: "The lie has reached the point where the Labour Party is appearing as a peace dove, a peacemaker. This is an attempt to brainwash the Arabs and ignore the truth."

Sudanese defence minister in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudanese Defence Minister Abdul Majid Hamid Khalaf has arrived in Ethiopia to deliver a message to President Mengistu Haile Mariam, the official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said Tuesday. The contents of the message from Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi were not disclosed, ENA said. General Khalaf arrived in Addis Ababa Monday. Sudan's official radio Omdurman said Monday that rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were bringing in heavy artillery from Ethiopia to bombard the garrison town of Nasir, which lies 40 kilometres from the Ethiopian frontier in southern Sudan.

Hungarian prime minister in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz arrived in Tehran Tuesday on an official visit to expand ties between the two countries. Tehran radio reported. Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi welcomed Grosz at Tehran airport and was quoted by the radio as saying he would discuss international and regional issues as well as the Iran-Iraq peace process with the Hungarian leader. Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said Grosz was accompanied by a 20-man delegation including Hungary's industries minister, deputy ministers of foreign affairs and commerce and several industry managers.

Rebel rocket attack on Kabul kills 3

ISLAMABAD (R) — Rebels fighting the government in Afghanistan fired rockets on the capital Kabul Monday, killing three people and wounding two, the official Kabul radio said. The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said "criminal extremists" fired 14 surface-to-surface missiles, three of which fell on residential areas.

'Don't block arms sales to Arabs'

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said Tuesday the United States must sell arms to moderate Arab countries if it wants to influence Middle East peace negotiations. Carlucci was speaking from Washington in an interview broadcast by Israel radio. "If we are to be an honest broker in the peace process, it is vitally important that we retain our influence with the Arab countries," he said. "It is essential that the United States preserve that relationship with moderate Arab states if it is to play a useful role in the peace process."

Vincennes crew gets hero's welcome

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (R) The crew of the USS Vincennes, said by its captain to have been devastated by the news that it had shot down an Iranian airliner in July killing all 290 passengers, returned home to a hero's welcome Monday. With the theme music from the film "Chariots of Fire" blaring from its loudspeakers, the Vincennes, an Aegis-type cruiser with a crew of nearly 400, steamed into its home port after a six-month tour of duty. The type of missile that downed the Iran air Airbus on July 3 over the Gulf pointed skyward from the foredeck.

Czechoslovak official to meet Abba Eban

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — A Czechoslovak official Monday invited former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban to take part in a "model international conference" on the Middle East to be held in Prague later this year, the state news agency CTK reported. Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Boshustav Chmupnek, who was replaced in a recent reshuffle, conferred with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during the U.N. General Assembly session in New York in the first such high-level meeting since the 1967 Middle East war.

Iran clears mines from parts of Gulf

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will sweep international sealanes in the Gulf once it has cleared all its coastal waters of mines, Iran's navy commander was quoted as saying Monday. Tehran radio quoted Rear Admiral Mohammad Hossein Malekzadeh as saying the navy had cleared large areas of Iran's Gulf waters since the August 20 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. Speaking in the Gulf port of Mahshahr, he said two sweeping operations which started in the northern Gulf and the Hormuz Strait were converging on the central part of the waterway.

Islamic Jihad, U.S. deny link to Milan affair

Hizbollah men reportedly in Tehran for talks on hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Top officials from the Lebanese Hizbollah group are in Tehran for talks on securing the release of some U.S. hostages in Lebanon, senior Lebanese security sources said Monday.

One source told Reuters at least four officials had been in the Iranian capital since last week discussing ways to end the hostage issue.

Another source said Iran asked the officials to Tehran to "inform them of a deal it is working out with the Americans to release the hostages." The source quoted what he called pro-Iranian quarters in Lebanon as saying the deal involved an arms swap.

The United States said last week it flatly rejected a proposal by international arms brokers that American-made F-5 warplanes be sold to Iran in exchange for the U.S. captives.

The Islamic Jihad group holding two American hostages said Sunday they would harm the hostages unless the United States ended support for what it called Israeli aggression. It was the group's second such threat in three days.

Four British members of parliament, two from the ruling Conservatives and two from the opposition Labour Party, met Muslim Lebanese officials Hussein Hussein and Selim Hoss in west Beirut Monday.

The British parliamentarians arrived from Damascus after five days of talks with Syrian officials on ties between the two countries. "We are here only to learn about the current politics of the country," said delegation member Andrew Faulds. The MPs later left for Damascus. Lebanon's political impasse has sparked fears of renewed civil war and the permanent partition of the country into Christian and Muslim fiefdoms.

Islamic Jihad, which has held journalist Terry Anderson and university dean Thomas Sutherland for more than three years, said in a statement Friday that the captives might be harmed in retaliation for Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon.

Israeli jets killed nine people in raids Friday launched to avenge a suicide car bombing that killed eight Israeli soldiers two days earlier in southern Lebanon.

Israel carried out another air raid Monday in which one member of a Lebanese leftist party was reported wounded.

Islamic Jihad denies link to Rizkallah

Islamic Jihad, meanwhile, threatened reprisals against Italy unless it withdrew statements that a woman arrested in Milan was carrying a photograph of one of their hostages.

"The political ties of Aline Rizkallah to Israeli agents and her drug dealings and habits are clear evidence that she has no direct or indirect links to us," Islamic Jihad (Holy war) said in a statement sent to an international news agency in west Beirut.

Rizkallah, a Lebanese, was arrested at Milan airport last Thursday with a false-bottomed suitcase containing what Italian police said were the photographs of American hostages Alann Steen and Terry Anderson.

The Islamic Jihad statement was accompanied by a polaroid photograph of Anderson wearing a white T-shirt.

"What was said about the presence of pictures of detained Anderson is unfounded and has absolutely no truth to it," the group said.

They called on Italy "to show the truth, otherwise the Italian authorities will bear complete responsibility for taking part in a vicious conspiracy aimed at distorting our image in the world."

Likud, Labour still neck-and-neck

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli leaders began the final week of a national election campaign on Tuesday without a front-runner, prompting speculation that the two main parties would form another national unity government.

Opinion polls showed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud Bloc and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party in the kind of deadlock that forced them together after Israel's last general election in 1984.

Activists in both camps privately acknowledge the parties may have to join forces again, even though the two leaders opposed the idea on Sunday in their only televised campaign debate. The election is on November 1.

"It's only a matter of minutes once the election results are in. If the two parties are two or three seats apart, one will call the other and they'll make a deal," said one Labour Party activist.

The polls showed Labour and Likud each winning between 39 and 42 seats in the 120-seat parliament, neither approaching the 61 needed for an absolute majority. Smaller parties stand to capture the remaining 40-odd seats.

Peace and security have been the main issues of a sluggish campaign overshadowed by a 11-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in which at least 310 Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops.

During the televised debate Shamir attacked Peres' support for an international Middle East peace conference and his proposal to give up some of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in exchange for peace.

Other Middle East players have assumed key roles in the election campaign, with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) urging Israelis to vote for the left.

Shamir rejected any interference in Israeli politics.

Critics, including uncommitted voters, see little by which to tell the two parties apart.

Both Labour and Likud oppose talks with the PLO, favour an "iron fist" policy to crush the Arab uprising and ultimately support direct Arab-Israeli talks to reach a peace settlement.

Israel tightens S. Lebanon 'security'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday Israel had stepped up precautions in its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon after a car bomb blast and two attempted "infiltrations." But Rabin rejected suggestions that the border "security zone" established in 1985 be broadened or a fence built at its northern edge.

Speaking to parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, Rabin said the army, to discourage car bombs, had reinstated regulations banning unaccompanied motorists.

Last week a suicide car bomb driven by a member of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah organisation killed eight Israeli soldiers in an explosion within a kilometre of an army checkpoint at the northern border with Israel.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Syria, Jordan discuss Lebanon

(Continued from page 1) Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, for an Arab summit meeting on Lebanon, Sharaf said Syria "welcomes any Arab effort."

Iraqi call

Iraq called on the Arab League Monday to ensure that Lebanon's parliament meets to elect a new president and end the constitutional crisis. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Radio that it was "imperative to undertake a quick and active measure to ensure the convening of the Lebanese parliament in order to elect a new president for this Arab country."

Israeli troops kill Gaza girl

(Continued from page 1) In Jerusalem, two people were slightly injured when the Israeli buses in which they were riding were struck with stones, police said.

Earlier, the Israeli army retracted a report that a seven-year-old Palestinian boy had died after being wounded by soldiers in the Gaza Strip.

An army spokeswoman said Ali Hussein Abu Abra was wounded by a plastic bullet during an anti-Israeli demonstration Monday but was alive.

Tuesday's casualties occurred during clashes between troops and stone-throwing protesters in six cities and refugee camps in the occupied territories.

A 22-year-old man suffered a serious plastic gunshot wound in the neck when soldiers raided the village of Tamoun near the city of Nablus, according to news reports. He was rushed to Rafidieh hospital in Nablus, the reports said.

Twenty-six-year-old Mohammad Ali Rweidh from Nozeirat refugee camp in Gaza was in critical condition with a bullet wound to the chest, said an official at Ahli hospital.

Two teenagers, aged 14 and 15, were struck by plastic bullets during stoning protests in the Gaza town of Khan Yunis and Deir Al Balah refugee camp, local hospital officials said.

Soldiers later clamped a curfew on parts of Khan Yunis and detained about a dozen Palestinians, according to news reports.

Committee to Protect Journalists protests Israel's detention of Palestinian reporters, editors

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists has sent the following letter to Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Oct. 7 to protest Israeli detention of Palestinian journalists.

THE COMMITTEE to Protect Journalists and Article 19 are writing to protest the continued wide-scale detention of Palestinian journalists. According to our information, at least 12 journalists are currently in administrative detention, and 7 others have been arrested since March and are still being held.

Since the Palestinian uprising began last December, at least 39 Palestinian journalists from various publications and news agencies have been detained for two days or longer. Those placed in administrative detention have generally been in-carcerated for six-month terms without being charged or tried.

By jailing so many Palestinian journalists without charge or trial, your government flouts scepticism toward the claim that it does not punish journalists for pursuing their profession. In our view, the large-scale detentions of reporters and editors since the start of the uprising, the recently extended closure of the Palestine Press Service (PPS), and the tightening of censorship indicate that Israel is clamping down on the Palestinian press as an institution, in order to restrict the flow of information and ideas.

To the best of our knowledge, the journalists listed below are currently being held. In administrative detention are:

Salah Al Deiri, director of Al-Quds Press office in Bethlehem; Adnan Damiri, from Tul-kram, with Al Awdah magazine and PPS, arrested March 20; detention order reportedly renewed in September; Musa Jaradat, a Hebron-based journalist with Al Fajr, arrested about May 10; Yusef Al Ju'beh, a freelance journalist in Ramallah; Samir Abu Jundi, a sports editor for Al Fajr from the Gaza Strip, arrested in July; Ahmad Abu Lashen, owner of Gaza Press Services, which supplies stories to Al Quds daily and others, arrested about March 19; Badr Makki, from Jericho, a sports editor at Al Shaab daily; Qaddura Musa, a correspondent of the PPS and Al Fajr daily from the West Bank city of Jenin, placed in administrative detention in May or June; Hatem Abdul Qader, deputy editor of Al Fajr daily, arrested May 2 and placed in administrative detention in early September; Hassan Abed Rabbo, from the Bethlehem area, with Al

Awdah magazine, arrested in May; Hisham Abu To'meh, from Tul-kram, with Al Shaab daily; and Rafiq Hafez Yunis, Oalqilya correspondent for Al Shaab, placed in administrative detention in September.

Other journalists currently under arrest are:

Talal Abu Afifeh, a resident of Shu'afat and an editor at Al Fajr daily, arrested about May 10 and held for two weeks, then rearrested in early August; Abdullah Awad, with Al Bayadiri Al Siyasi newsweekly, arrested March 20; Marwan Khader, a layout person at Al Shaab; Hassan Al Khatib, of Al Fajr, arrested in September 5; Musa Sulaiman Qus, of Al Fajr, arrested in August; Hassan Sarandah, of Al Shaab, arrested in mid-September; and

Salah Zuheikeh, editor of Al Shaab and deputy head of the Arab Journalists Association, arrested Sept. 5, two months after his release from six months' administrative detention.

As nonpartisan organisations seeking to defend freedom of expression and information worldwide, we view the measures against the Palestinian press as inconsistent with Israel's professed commitment to press freedom. We maintain that all journalists should be released unless they are promptly charged with offences that are recognisably criminal and granted fair trials. Furthermore, we urge you to abide by international standards regarding the right to free expression, by permitting all expression that does not pose a demonstrable threat to national security or the public order.

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Symposium sees need to cut spending, adjust trade balance

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Economic officials and businessmen agree that the Jordanian government and the public will have to join hands in facing the difficult economic transition period and should tighten belts to achieve a better balance between spending and earning, whether at household level or in government public expenditure.

At a symposium-dinner held by the Business and Professional Women Club at the Plaza Hotel Monday, industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Maher Shukri and Income Tax Department General Manager Salman Tarawneh discussed the Kingdom's economic policies and their impact on the investment climate in Jordan.

Questions posed to the three lecturers by a large number of businessmen and moneychangers attending the symposium clearly indicated the public's concern with the changing economic situation in the Kingdom, and called for clear and well studied plans by the different government departments involved to stop the fluctuation of the Jordanian dinar against foreign currencies.

Questions also expressed concern over the "sudden and surprising measures" adopted by the government after repeated statements to the public that the economic situation would not change drastically.

Attendees at the symposium called for greater public participation in the formulation of government economic measures and a more accurate, candid and complete flow of information on

domestic economic trends. Shukri explained that even though indications of a weakening economy in the Kingdom were evident in 1986, "we were unable to adopt measures then because of other forces in the market which called upon us to wait and handle the more pressing problems at hand."

He said that in 1986 Jordan suffered the bankruptcy of two very well established moneychangers and many private companies were going through reorganising processes, so "there was no way that we could impose strong economic measures which would have created investor worry in the Kingdom."

Shukri outlined the reasons which led to the government's implementation of economic measures which would allow the Jordanian dinar to find its natural value and stop government backing for what was described as the dinar's unrealistically high value.

He explained that the lack of sufficient foreign exchange with the government to cover the needs of the commercial banks and the economy as a whole was the major factor behind the measures.

"There was an unnecessary outflow of foreign exchange by

the private sector," Shukri said, which he estimated as ranging between JD 100-200 million.

The moves were designed to reduce imports, and encourage and increase exports. Through the adjustment of the JD rate buying foreign products would become expensive while the price of local goods would be more reasonable and more conducive to exporting.

Budget and trade deficits also were prime reasons behind the new economic measures. The government was spending more than it received in budget support from Gulf states and in taxes, while the trade deficit was a result of our importing more than we export.

Both Shukri and Tabbaa pointed out two reasons characterising the fluctuation of the Jordanian economy in general and industry in particular. "First, Jordan depends greatly on budget support from other Arab countries in its status as a confrontation state and it is not a major manufacturing and exporting country," Tabbaa told the large audience.

Jordan was receiving aid from oil-producing Gulf states in support of its steadfastness as a confrontation state with Israel, in accordance with the recommendations of the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit.

Tabbaa pointed out that Jordan's imports far exceed its exports and cited as example the import of Bulgarian meat.

"Jordan imports as much as 12,000 tonnes of Bulgarian meat at the cost of JD 60 million paid in dollars," Tabbaa said.

Twenty per cent of the imported meat may be consumed by the public solely for the Jordanian (national dish) mansaf, which "clearly indicates a problem in our consumption and is also a clear indication that we import far more than what we need," he added.

Commenting on the options available to the central bank to regulate the price of the Jordanian dinar, Shukri said: "The central bank intervened but it was not announced, and the other option would have been compa-

ratively drastic."

He explained that the government was faced with the option of completely preventing foreign currency outflows and even preventing people from spending money outside the country to save foreign currency, "but the adjustment we applied seemed more plausible."

Shukri pointed out that the government has promised to cut down on its spending but said that government spending would be hard to curb since 40 per cent of the budget is spent on defence and salaries and 20 per cent for repayment of international and local debts "which clearly indicates that 60 per cent of the budget cannot be cut."

He predicted the rate of inflation would probably reach eight per cent in the next 6 months. Asked why the tax law is not tied to the annual budget as practiced in foreign countries, Tarawneh said "until today the Jordanians do not pay a fixed percentage of the budget, Arab countries do." But he added "we should tie and we should be the ones financing our budget."

Earlier, Tabbaa said that the series of the economic measures adopted by the Jordanian cabinet in August aimed to encourage investment by the private sector.

He summarised those measures in five categories:

— Facilitate the official procedures especially those concerned with establishing new projects or expanding the existing ones.

— Implement a number of institutional measures which include establishing new institutions such as the Department of Investment Monitoring in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the establishment of a Higher Committee for Exports and the unification of the Industrial Estate Corporation and the Free Zones Corporation.

— Review the incentives and facilities granted to the private sector in investment and exports.

— Substitute total protectionism with customs protectionism for almost all locally produced products.

— Provide credit facilities to finance and encourage exports of local products.

Iran willing to accept oil export parity with Iraq

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's oil minister said Monday that Tehran will accept parity with its Gulf war foe, Iraq, on oil exports, but not on production, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency quoted Gholamreza Azadeh as saying in Madrid after a meeting of OPEC's strategy and pricing committees that if the group assigns Iraq a production quota of 2.3 million barrels a day — Iran's current

quota — Tehran's should be hiked to three million barrels a day.

"In this way, the two countries would enjoy a parity of quotas concerning oil exports," he declared before leaving for Tehran.

Azadeh said Iraq is currently producing some 2.7 million barrels a day.

That is nearly double the quota of 1.5 million barrels a day assigned to Iraq by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) but which Baghdad has rejected as too low.

With a domestic consumption of around 300,000 barrels a day, that meant Iraq was exporting an estimated 2.3 million barrels a day.

Azadeh said Iran's current export level is around 1.36 million barrels a day from a production total of 2.36 million barrels a day, its OPEC quota.



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Board reviews operations of joint Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Co.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company (IJLTC) board of directors discussed here Tuesday reports on the company's operations following the addition of 150 new French trucks to its fleet.

The company's 900-truck fleet transported 808,000 tonnes of Iraqi goods from Aqaba to Iraq in the first eight months of 1988, according to the company's Director General Jamil Ibrahim.

He said that the company made a profit of JD 1.2 million from its operations during this period.

The company has laid down an integrated training programme for its staff and employees and this is expected to reflect positively on the company's operations in the coming stage, Ibrahim noted.

He said the company's maintenance workshop in Aqaba has already started repairing parts of vessels docking in Aqaba under

an agreement with the Iraqi Maritime Transport Company.

According to Ibrahim, the board meeting, which was chaired by Ministry of Transport Secretary-General and the company's Board Chairman Mahmoud Al Talhouni, was attended by his Iraqi counterpart Ghassan Radwan and the two sides in the joint board which reviewed the financial and operational reports in the first eight

months of 1988.

According to Ibrahim, the board paid tribute to the company's management and employees' efforts that helped the company achieve success.

The joint company, which was established in 1980, has lately assigned 40 of its trucks to transport Jordanian phosphate from the mines in southern Jordan to Aqaba for export.

Delegates offer ideas to bolster Arab pharmaceutical industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates to a three-day meeting on Arab pharmaceuticals Tuesday reviewed a working paper dealing with marketing of medicine in Morocco, the pharmaceutical situation in that country and the production and distribution of medicines and drugs by various concerned organisations.

Another paper dealt with Sudan's experiment in producing and distributing medicines as well as marketing of medicine in the Arab-African country.

Another paper by Mohammad Saleh dealt with marketing veterinary medicine in Jordan where Arab pharmaceuticals face a strong competition from foreign products. The paper dealt with abuse of veterinary medicine and the lack of planning in animal husbandry in the Arab World.

Saleh's paper put forward a number of proposals for solutions, including a call for stricter government control on imported veterinary products and he urged the inclusion of veterinary drugs produced in Jordan's trade agreements.

A working paper presented by an Italian delegate dealt with problems confronting marketing of pharmaceutical products and health authorities' measures to ensure safety of the patients.

Another Jordanian working paper submitted to the meeting tackled marketing of Jordanian products in Arab countries and called on Jordanian pharmaceutical industries to adopt up-to-date methods and techniques to ensure constant high-quality products that can confront foreign competition.

A working paper by Samih Darwazah called for a merger among small pharmaceutical industries to form a large corporation capable of standing firm in the face of foreign competition.

The paper underlined the benefits of such a practice which among other things, it said, can help improve quality control and facilitate marketing.

A working paper by a Dutch delegate dealt with priorities in marketing pharmaceuticals; and an Iraqi paper tackled techniques to test the quality of produced

drugs and medicines. The meetings were opened Tuesday by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Mouwaffaq Haddadin, director general of the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Ap-

pliances (ACDIMA), which organised the meetings, Monday told delegates that Arab pharmaceutical industries face various problems and challenges which can only be tackled with serious coordination among involved parties.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday rates Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	442.1	444.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	218.5	219.6
Pound Sterling	772.2	777.1	Dutch guilder	348.8	350.5
Deutschemark	246.5	247.7	Swedish crown	71.1	71.5
Swiss franc	290.6	292.1	Italian lira (for 100)	33.1	33.3
French franc	72.1	72.5	Belgian franc (for 10)	117.5	118.1

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Oct. 25, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	933862	JD 1312962	1102
Top three companies:			
National Steel Industries	55860	JD 156612	53
Jordan Cement Factories	86973	JD 115799	79
Dar Al Shaab for Press, Publishing and Distribution	95513	JD 67091	74
Secondary market:	23550	JD 15292	—
Development bonds:	145	JD 1498	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres	
Ministry of Supply	631221	Corporation	603507
Ministry of Finance	636321	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Planning	644400	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Labour	665186	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Communications	847391	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Income Tax Department	660185	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	General Statistics Department	846171
Amman Customs Department	772181	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7485/95	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2010/20	Canadian dollar	
	1.7965/72	Deutschemark	
	2.0260/70	Dutch guilders	
	1.5235/45	Swiss francs	
	37.65/66	Belgian francs	
	6.1340/90	French francs	
	1336/1337	Italian lire	
	127.05/15	Japanese yen	
	6.2290/2340	Swedish crowns	
	6.6880/6930	Norwegian crowns	
	6.9330/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	406.50/407.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed lower but overcame early setbacks caused by a poor September quarter inflation figure, lower gold prices and soft overseas markets. The All Ordinaries index fell 7.5 points to 1,579.9.

TOKYO — Late futures-related buying lifted share prices to near the day's highs at the close after wavering most of the day. The Nikkei index rose 139.95, 0.51 per cent, to 27,421.49.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed higher with buying interest spurred by speculation that Hong Kong Shanghai Hotels planned a general offer on its own stock to counter a hostile bid. The Hang Seng index rose 22.07 to 2,584.53.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed marginally lower across the board on lack of follow through buying and widespread profit-taking in lacklustre trading. The Straits Times Industrial index shed 7.78 points to 1,036.69.

BOMBAY — Share prices ran out of steam after a strong start to close lower on widespread profit-taking. Selling by state-owned financial institutions undermined sentiment and traders preferred to book quick profits.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed higher across the board, as the dollar's rise to above 1.79 marks unleashed a technical recovery. Volume rose considerably from Monday. The 30-share DAX index was one per cent up at 1,293.72.

PARIS — Prices continued their firmer tone with speculation on capital reshuffles in privatised groups still buoying the market. The 50-share bourse indicator posted a gain of around 0.4 per cent after an opening rise of around 0.2 per cent.

ZURICH — Shares closed narrowly mixed with an easier bias on light volume. Underlying sentiment remained positive but was not translated into buying. The All Swiss index fell 0.5 points to 934.2.

LONDON — Shares held steadily mixed as referral of Minorco's bid for Cons Gold to the Monopolies Commission and nervousness ahead of Thursday's U.K. trade data kept the market subdued. By 1503 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 1.8 at 1,846.6.

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4. Swimming pools and sports yards
5. A multipurpose hall
6. Animal zoo

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**Abdallah Basboos
Mayor of Mafraq Municipality**

Halloween Party

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Free Drinks & Snacks

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Barcelona braces itself to face Poznan challenge

BARCELONA (R) — Barcelona, still smarting from defeat by bitter rivals Real Madrid, will be seeking to blot out that galling experience when they meet Lech Poznan in the European Cup Winners' Cup Wednesday.

Czech Johan Cruyff, who saw his side wiped off the top of the Spanish league when they lost 3-2 to Real Saturday, said he was wary of Barcelona's Polish second round opponents but not unduly impressed with their football.

"At important times the side always manages to give of its best," said Gullit who has been sidelined with an ankle injury.

Gullit, European footballer of the year and prime mover in Milan's league title success last year, contributed little to his first appearance of this season in a lacklustre league match against Lazio last Sunday which ended in a goalless draw.

Celtics vs. Bremen

In Glasgow, the unique atmosphere of Glasgow Celtic's Parkhead stadium on European Cup night will test the nerve and resolve of West German soccer champions Werder Bremen Wednesday.

European Soccer

Situated among the tenement housing blocks of Glasgow's east end, Parkhead is a throwback to a bygone age. Only 9,000 of the 62,000 spectators at the second round first-leg tie will enjoy the comfort of a seat, the remainder will mount an exercise in noise in a bid to keep out the chill on the old, sweeping terraces.

Honed Budapest were suitably intimidated in the previous round when a 1-0 first-leg lead

evaporated in the cold night air as Celtic romped to a 4-1 aggregate victory.

Werder midfielder Norbert Meier, a veteran of numerous European campaigns, knows the effect the vociferous Scottish crowd will have on the team. "They will take their teeth out and run like bulls for 90 minutes," prophesied the West German. "We will have to concentrate on our own game... they'll try to run us off the park."

Porto vs. Eindhoven

In Eindhoven, Portuguese soccer champions Porto will be eager to restore national pride Wednesday when they confront European Cup holders PSV Eindhoven for a place in next year's quarter-finals.

Porto preceded PSV as European champions in 1987 but the trophy left Portugal 12 months later when Benfica Lisbon fell to the Dutchmen in Stuttgart in May this year.

So far this season, PSV have failed to recapture their scintillating form of 1987-88 when they swept to their third successive championship title before becoming the third Dutch club to win the European Cup following Ajax Amsterdam and Feyenoord Rotterdam.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kasparov wins world cup chess tournament

REYKJAVIC (R) — Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov won the world cup chess tournament in Iceland despite rarely capturing his best form. Kasparov took the \$20,000 first prize after drawing his final game with Yugoslav Grandmaster Predrag Nikolic. Soviet master Alexander Beliavsky, equal with Kasparov before Monday's final round, lost to former world champion Boris Spassky of France and had to be content with second place. Soviet former world champion Mikhail Tal came third. Kasparov looked in indifferent form throughout most of the three-week tournament but put on a final spurt towards the end, winning three of his last four games.

Karpov, Kasparov to share Soviet chess title

MOSCOW (R) — A playoff for the Soviet chess title has been called off and arch-rivals Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov will share the award, a Moscow newspaper said Monday. The two both scored 11.5 points at the Soviet Chess Championships which ended on August 18. Although the two had played against each other 130 times, the Moscow tournament was their first contest for the Soviet title. Karpov lost the world championship to Kasparov in 1985.

Mecir enters \$1 million tournament

PARIS (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia defeated Richey Reneberg of the United States 6-3, 6-4, in the first round of the \$1.1-million Paris open tennis tournament Monday. The tournament, offering a first prize worth \$262,000, is the richest on the Nabisco Grand Prix indoor circuit. The winner's purse includes a \$100,000 bonus.

Lawrenson sacked

LONDON (R) — Former Liverpool and Ireland defender Mark Lawrenson was sacked as Oxford manager Tuesday after a row over the sale of Welsh international striker Dean Saunders. Lawrenson, who became Oxford manager last April when injury ended his playing career, threatened to quit Monday. He said he had not been consulted by Oxford Chairman Kevin Maxwell over the \$1.75 million transfer of Saunders from the second division club to first division Derby, whose chairman is Kevin's father, millionaire publisher Robert Maxwell.

Bidding to host world cricket cup begins

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia and New Zealand will make a joint bid to stage the fifth one-day world cup in 1992. Australian cricket board chief executive Davis Richards told a press conference Tuesday the two countries would submit a detailed proposal to the international cricket conference Nov. 10. A decision on the bid would be made next January, Richards said. The only other applicant for the 1992 cup is Pakistan, which jointly staged the 1987 competition with India.

Paralympic games close with fireworks, flags and emotion

SEOUL (AP) — A United States runner raised in Venezuela won a gold medal in the marathon of the international Paralympic games Monday and the biggest ever games for the disabled closed with a spectacular display of fireworks, flags and emotion.

Some 4,000 participants from 62 nations crowded the centre field at Olympic stadium to celebrate the end of 10-days of competition which saw hundreds of new world records set in what many say is a turning point in sports for the disabled.

Athletes hugged one another, took pictures, sat on the ground and sometimes watched speechlessly at the nighttime drama created in their honour.

The Brazilian team sang "ole, ole," the British linked arms and yelled "toget, toget, toget" and "oy, oy, oy." A West German athlete tied her scarf to her crutches and waved it at the cheering crowds and Dario Merelli of Bergamo, Italy, listened to it all.

Dario is blind and this was his first Paralympics. He smiled and nodded and said he was "happy, yes a bit."

He started to say more, but the rest lost in thunderous applause from 70,000 spectators as the lights went off and a 50-foot high silver helium balloon appeared on the field bathed in coloured lights.

There was an orchestra, a chorus, thousands of dancers swirling with lanterns, fans and silk scarves, performing many of the same routines created for the closing ceremonies of last month's Olympic games.

The Finland delegation included a man in a father christmas suit. Richard Oliver of Australia wore a green Frankenstein mask and raced his wheelchair along the edge of the field to the delight of children in the stands.

Austria's silver medalist Andreas Siegel wore the team's mascot, a stuffed centipede, around his neck. The centipede wore an official games nametag.

The stadium was a sea of flags carried by church and school groups that had adopted national teams as cheerleaders.

An estimated half a million people visited competitions during the games, far exceeding expectations of the organisers and creating a groundswell of emotion among athletes used to competing in near empty stadiums.

"It's unbelievable — the crowd, the whole games," said Ronan Rooney, a wheelchair athlete from Drogheda, County Meath, Ireland.

"This will give disabled sports more credibility," he said.

There were 2,196 medals awarded in 732 competitions, three times as many as at the Olympic games, and the last of these went to competitors in the 42 kilometre marathon.

There were dozens of blind and wheelchair racers competing in 14

Talbot, 31, is legally blind but can see form and shadow and read if he holds a paper close "so when I read the Sunday paper my face gets black from ink."

He grew up in Maracaibo, Venezuela, and dedicated the race to his father. Talbot ran the marathon in two hours, 22 minutes and 55 seconds, bettering his own Paralympic record by four minutes to win his second gold medal of the games. He also won the 5,000 metre.

For the first time in Jordan, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor over 100 musicians

will be performing in a combined concert presented by the Chamber Symphony of PRINCETON and the Symphony Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces.



The program will include Rossini's "Barber of Seville Overture", Bizet's "Carmen Suite No. 1," Mozart's "Symphony No. 40", Strauss Waltzes and Polkas, and will conclude with Tchaikovsky's massive "1812 Overture" with an additional 40 musicians and the famous cannon fire.

Do not miss this concert which will take place at the Palace of Culture on Friday 28/10/1988.

Tickets to either event are available at: Babiche — Istiklal Bookstore Sweifeh Azizieh Stores — The Royal Cultural Center The National Music Conservatory

The Princeton Orchestra will also present a concert at the Royal Cultural Center on Wednesday the 26th under its Conductor Mark Laycock, in a program of music by Mozart, Haydn and Turina and featuring soloist Charles Rex of the New York Philharmonic in Mozart's "Violin Concerto No. 3."

Milan vs. Belgrade

In Milan, striker Ruud Gullit may not be fully fit but his AC Milan side are still favourites to win their European Cup soccer clash with Yugoslavia's red star Belgrade Wednesday.

With two other members of the Dutch European championship-winning side — Frank Rijkaard in midfield and Marco Van Basten up front — and with Italian Antonio Virdis in fine goal-scoring form, Milan are still formidable opponents.

Johnson is officially suspended

OTTAWA (AP) — Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, who tested positive for drugs after winning the Olympic 100-metre dash, was officially suspended for two years by the Canadian Track and Field Association Monday. His coach was suspended indefinitely.

In addition to the suspensions of Johnson and coach Charlie Francis, the association announced two limited inquiries into events surrounding the sprinter's positive test for an anabolic steroid at the summer games.

But the association left for a

commission of inquiry the tough questions about alleged steroid use by Johnson and other Canadian runners. The commission of inquiry headed by justice Charles Dubin is to begin its work shortly.

Johnson, 26, was suspended from competing for Canada for two years, retroactive to Sept. 24, the day he tested positive for use of a banned performance-enhancing steroid and was stripped of his 100-metre gold medal.

The two-year suspension was levied by the International Amateur Athletic Federation,

the world governing body for track and field, and ratified by the Canadian body, said Association President Paul Dupre.

There is no appeal of the suspension.

But Johnson can appeal his loss of the gold medal to the International Olympic Committee's court of arbitration for sport, Dupre said.

Francis, Johnson's personal coach and the track and field association's sprint coach, was suspended with pay until the personnel committee of the association can review his status, Dupre said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK3 ♣KJ95 ♠AJ87 ♠K9
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade.
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ5 ♣Q952 ♠KJ43 ♠AQ
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade.
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9 ♣AJ63 ♠K987 ♠Q1032
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK9852 ♠AQ73 ♠83 ♠8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♠AK9852 ♠AQ73 ♠8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♠AK9852 ♠AQ73 ♠8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There is music in the air, as the day is filled with pleasant interpersonal contacts. Communications improve, and the emphasis shifts from stubborn pursuit to inquisitive variability. Romance is in the air.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may want to make some financial adjustments and consult with the family while the mood is favorable. Let them know what to expect.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) The velvet hand of love may be stroking you today. It could be a dream come true if a pleasing situation is put to the test.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may be a little fogged and inattentive in the morning. Use caution in the right places, and let your mind wander with creative ideas.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Daydreams today could be the plans of the future. Hold onto those moments of intuition, and consider how to move on them.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your best understanding advances you up the career ladder. An important VIP asks for assistance in a work matter. Wear a confident smile.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) True love may not run smoothly today.

Your loving side will help to ease another's fears. Remain detached when handling problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Additional training and development of professional talents will continue on a downhill slide if more energy is not forthcoming. Be insightful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Consider yourself lucky when ideas pay off. Rewards for changes at work are still in the background but are sure to come forth shortly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Maintain a practical attitude regarding educational goals. Failure comes from biting off too big a chunk. Start slowly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Social arrangements for the day could turn out to be difficult. Join familiar acquaintances and family to recoup your forces.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A shopping spree today may bring forth financial problems later. Consult with those people who may share in your purchases.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are clear as a bell and logical. It is a favorable time to compare your philosophies to current political trends and make voting decisions.

Boxer fears political repercussions

LONDON (AP) — South African boxer Brian Mitchell arrived Monday for the Nov. 2 defence of his World Boxing Association junior lightweight title, saying he hoped the fight would not be disrupted by anti-apartheid demonstrations.

The 27-year-old champion, who meets undefeated Briton Jim McDonnell at the Elephant and Castle in Central London, asked the British public to treat him on his merits as a boxer.

"I think the guys will accept that I am not here to represent South Africa," Mitchell said. "I'm here to represent the World Boxing Association. I am a sportsman — I'm not a politician."

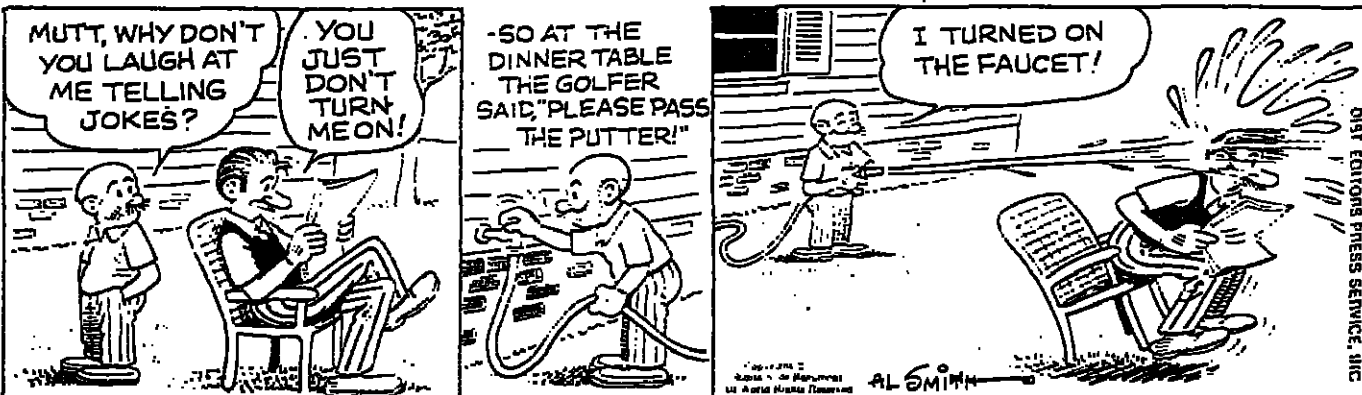
"If they do disrupt the fight and it doesn't take place then they would be interfering with their own guy getting a chance at the title," he said.

South Africa is banned from international sport because of its racial separation policies known as apartheid.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

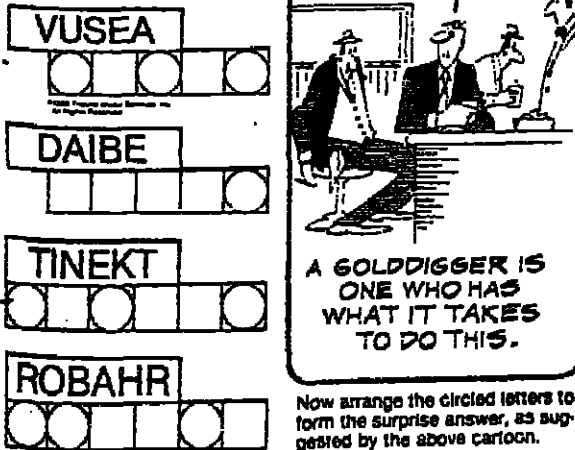
By Harris



"We're out of cream. Want some mayonnaise in your coffee?"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



A GOLD-DIGGER IS ONE WHO HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO DO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WHAT

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOWDY JOKER ASYLUM BEAUTY

Answer: She had a steady job trying to keep him at this — A STEADY JOB

Kohl upbeat on Berlin after Kremlin talks

MOSCOW (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was given reason for optimism on Berlin by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and was not discouraged by his hard words, his spokesman said Tuesday.

He said Kohl got the impression in private talks that a certain optimism was justified in the long term about the divided city despite Gorbachev's public statement that the city's status was "unshakable."

The spokesman, Friedhelm Ost, did not reveal what Gorbachev said to Kohl to make him optimistic about Berlin during their first round of talks.

The chancellor, who arrived in Moscow Monday for a four-day visit, met the Kremlin leader again Tuesday. TASS news agency reported. Several government ministers from both countries took part in the talks.

Kohl told reporters his Monday session with the Kremlin leader had been difficult at times but he indicated he was not surprised by the toughness of Gorbachev's public stance later in the day on Berlin.

"We are looking for practical solutions," Kohl said, adding: "The world does not change in a few hours."

Kohl used a dinner speech Monday to appeal to the Soviet Union to allow all Germans to overcome by peaceful means the post-war division of their country.

Gorbachev replied that closer ties with Bonn would not change the Soviet opposition to German reunification or its attitude toward Berlin.

After World War II Berlin was divided into four zones by the victorious allies — the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

Although those zones still exist, East Germany has made East Berlin its capital and in 1961 built a wall to stop massive migration to the Western sectors of the city. Bonn has pushed hard to integrate West Berlin into the political, economic and cultural life of West Germany. Moscow has resisted although some compromises were made in a 1971 agreement between the four allied powers.



A Nicaraguan couple hand their infant child to a Red Cross volunteer as they prepare to disembark from a fishing boat which evacuated them from Nicaragua's Atlantic coast in the wake of hurricane

Joan earlier this week. The hurricane has now been renamed Miriam and reclassified as a tropical storm

Miriam runs out of steam, expected to die out in Pacific

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Tropical storm Miriam, which killed over 100 people in its rampage through Central America and the Caribbean as hurricane Joan, has churned off the Guatemalan coast with forecasters optimistic it would disappear in the Pacific.

"It would be difficult for it to enter the continental platform again — the most likely thing is that it will be lost in the Pacific," Guatemala Meteorology Institute Director Estuardo Velazquez told Reuters late Monday.

Officials from Guatemala's emergency committee said they had no reports of victims or damage from the storm, which was

given a new name as it crossed the Central American isthmus into the Pacific.

The committee ordered schools and public offices closed along the Pacific coast as heavy rains began to fall across the country early Monday.

"We are on alert, but thank God we haven't had to intervene," one committee spokesman said.

Velazquez said the storm was centred about 30 kilometres off the Pacific port of San Jose late Monday, with winds at its centre of up to 80 kilometres per hour.

As Joan, the hurricane slammed into Nicaragua and Costa Rica late last week, killing at least

70 people and leaving a trail of devastation that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega called to hit his country.

The hurricane, which had earlier claimed some 30 lives in a six-day sweep through the Caribbean, completely destroyed the towns of Bluefields, Ciudad Rama and Corn Island and forced about 300,000 Nicaraguans, almost a tenth of the population, to flee their homes.

Some residents of Bluefields Monday began trying to rebuild homes shattered by the force of the hurricane. They faced a difficult task. Officials said 95 per cent of the city was flattened as

Ferry sinks in Philippine typhoon killing at least 500

MANILA (Agencies) — A ferry with at least 500 people on board sank during a typhoon which ripped through the Philippines Monday, the Philippine Coast Guard reported.

Captain Samuel Cortez, district commander for the central Philippines, told Reuters eight survivors were picked up by a cargo vessel. He had no word on the fate of the other passengers.

The 2,855-ton inter-island ferry Dona Marilyn disappeared in heavy seas after sending out a radio distress signal Monday as typhoon Ruby pounded the Philippines with winds of up to 185 kilometres per hour.

Cortez quoted survivors picked

up 475 kilometres southeast of Manila, as saying the ferry went down at the height of the typhoon which inflicted widespread flooding and destruction across the Philippines.

"Ships are now scouring the area for other possible survivors," Cortez said in a telephone interview.

It was the second major sea tragedy in the Philippines in 10 months. Dona Marilyn was a sister ship of the Dona Paz which sank after a collision last December with the loss of more than 2,000 lives in the world's worst peacetime sea disaster.

A spokesman for owners Sulpi-

cio Lines said in Manila the ferry was carrying 412 passengers and 60 crew, although some shipping officials said there may be more on board.

Typhoon Ruby headed out into the South China Sea Tuesday after leaving a trail of devastation across the country of 58 million people, triggering flash floods and plunging towns and cities into darkness.

Heavy winds and rain continued to batter Manila and many of the Philippines 7,000 islands Tuesday afternoon hampering rescue work and restricting flights by helicopters searching for victims.

Tutu calls for calm during polls

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu Tuesday urged South Africans to fast during Wednesday's nationwide local elections and appealed to all sides to avoid violence.

Tutu, along with other black anti-apartheid leaders, advocates a boycott of the voting for segregated municipal councils. But the archbishop said those who wish to vote, as well as those who boycott, "should be free to exercise their choice without intimidation."

Tutu issued his appeal in a statement from his church headquarters in Cape Town, a day after a car bombing in Witbank, east of Johannesburg, which killed two people and injured 42.

Police say the blast was part of a campaign by the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement to disrupt the elections. The banned ANC has

not commented specifically on the bombing.

The elections mark the first time South Africans of all races vote at the same time. The government has spent millions of dollars on advertising to encourage a high black turnout, seeking support for its claims that it is extending democracy to blacks even though it denies them a vote in national elections.

The government said Tuesday that 19.3 per cent of the 1,464,198 eligible black voters cast ballots during a 12-day advance voting period that ended Saturday. The figure covered only wards where multi-candidate elections are taking place.

In 1983, the last time black municipal elections were held, the overall turnout was 21 per cent.

There are about five million whites and 26 million blacks in South Africa. Roughly half the

blacks live in self-governing homelands not involved in the local elections.

Critics say black turnout figures this year will be virtually meaningless because millions of blacks are ineligible to vote and because no candidates linked to major anti-apartheid groups are running.

Anti-apartheid organisations have called for a national day of protest Wednesday. Tutu said the protest could take various forms, including fasting and prayer, and would not necessarily involve a widespread general strike.

"I want to make an urgent call for a peaceful response to the elections," Tutu said. "I call on the government not to provoke violence during the polling and on all those involved in responding to the elections, whether supporting or opposing them, not to allow intimidation."

Police raid unveils Swedish arms scam

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden plunged into yet another arms scandal Tuesday after police raided a state-owned arms company and prosecutors launched legal proceedings against two employees suspected of smuggling weapons to blacklisted states.

Police said they raided three buildings of the state-owned arms company FFV Ordnance late Monday. They gave few details but said they were investigating suspicions that the company sold anti-tank missiles to countries forbidden to receive them under Swedish law between 1980 and 1988.

At the same time, state prosecutors informed two FFV employees, whose names were not released, that they were suspected of illegally exporting arms — the first legal step towards prosecution in the Swedish judicial system.

It was the latest in a long series of scandals to hit the Swedish arms industry, which is facing its worst crisis in decades because of government plans to cut military spending.

"After the past couple of years, everything in the Swedish arms industry is open to investigation and every time the police investigate anything they seem to uncover something new," said Aaron Karp, an international arms trade expert at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Neutral Sweden, an outspoken supporter of world disarmament, maintains a large weapons industry to bolster its stance of armed neutrality. But manufacturers are not allowed to export to countries at war or in areas of tension.

Previous police investigations have established that this law was repeatedly violated throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Advanced Swedish weapons systems, ammunition and explosives were shipped in large quantities to a host of nations on the forbidden list.

Police sources said the current FFV investigation involved suspicions that the company shipped anti-tank missiles to countries in Southeast Asia.

Sinhalese demand early general polls

COLOMBO (R) — Police fired tear-gas to disperse nearly 3,000 Sinhalese shouting "down with the government" and demanding early parliamentary elections in northern Sri Lanka Tuesday.

Police said no one was injured in the demonstration at Medawachchiya on the outskirts of the north-central town of Vavuniya. The protesters later regrouped and held a meeting near the bus station.

Police said they thought the protest was staged by the People's Liberation Front (JVP). In Colombo, where seven people were killed and 39 injured by three bomb blasts minutes after proclamation of a curfew intended to curb anti-government protests, troops manned roadblocks across the city.

The capital was virtually deserted. Soldiers, backed by police, checked thoroughly the few vehicles moving on the streets. They ignored some beggars who

appeared to be the only civilians around.

Tourists in the city were confined to their hotels, where some spent their enforced confinement at the bar.

"We are strictly enforcing the curfew," a police official said. A senior official blamed the JVP for Monday's attack on a meeting of ruling United National Party (UNP) members in Colombo.

Three bombs were flung at the meeting held in the capital's Kotahena district to discuss plans for the Dec. 19 presidential election. No arrests were made.

Police earlier said four were killed and about 50 wounded.

Minutes before the attack the government said it was imposing a curfew for 18 hours in western province, which includes Colombo, and for 28 hours in southern province from midnight Monday to "save human life and public property."

U.S. campaign turns into namecalling contest

WASHINGTON (R) — The two U.S. presidential candidates are accusing each other of lying and racism while lamenting the negative tone of a campaign that George Bush once likened to a schoolyard brawl.

Democrat Michael Dukakis, aiming to show his softer personality traits during broadcast interviews this week, also displayed his tough side by accusing Bush of "outrageous lies."

"Mark Twain once said a lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes," Dukakis said in Burbank, California Monday.

"Mr. Bush must have read Mark Twain because he's running a campaign based on distortions and distractions and outright lies."

But in a taped interview televised Monday night, the Democrat denounced the nasty tone of the electoral contest, saying: "I think a lot of people in this country are unhappy about the nature of the campaign, the tone of the campaign."

Dukakis cited as an example Bush ads discussing a black convicted murderer who raped a white woman while on a leave from prison through a program backed by the Massachusetts

governor.

Other Democrats, including Dukakis's running mate Lloyd Bentsen, have charged the ad amounted a racist appeal by the Republican vice-president.

Dukakis said President Reagan, while governor of California, operated a similar leave programme that ended in murder. "And I would never use that kind of human tragedy to accuse the president of being soft on crime, and I think that's one of the differences between George Bush and I."

The Massachusetts governor, who trails by about 10 points in most opinion polls for the Nov. 8 vote, said he hoped this joint television interview with his wife, Kitty, would help dispel his image as a cool technocrat.

"Having this chance to chat with you and being able to do this gives me a much better opportunity to show people who I really am," Dukakis told the interviewer.

Campaigning in Connecticut, Bush turned the tables by saying that the Massachusetts governor had lied during their Oct. 13 debate when challenged about his administration of the state's pension fund.

Polish roundtable is really round

WARSAW (AP) — For weeks it seemed all of Poland was waiting for the "round table." Now it has finally arrived. A specially made table 8.8 metres in diameter has been delivered to the Jabolonna Palace for the expected talks between representatives of authorities and the opposition, a furniture maker said.

The talks could take place as early as this week. The table is hollow in the centre and can seat more than 50 people, said a Polish media source. It comprises 14 sections, is made of pine and is covered with a veneer, the source said. The manager of the Warsaw Factory of Artistic Furniture, Henryk Lewandowski, said the table took two weeks to manufacture and was delivered Monday morning.

Millions of Yankees 'scientific illiterates'

CHICAGO (AP) — More than 50 years after Copernicus proved the Earth revolves around the sun, millions of adult Americans seem to think it's the other way around, a researcher said Sunday.

"It's a fairly dire situation," said Jon Miller, director of the Public Opinion Laboratory at Northern Illinois University, who conducted a nationwide survey for the National Science Foundation. "The results show that on very basic ideas, vast numbers of Americans are scientifically illiterate," he said in a telephone interview.

In the telephone survey of 2,041 adults 18 or older, conducted in July, people were asked about 75 questions testing their knowledge of basic science, Miller said. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus three percent. Asked whether the Earth goes around the sun or the sun around the Earth, 21 per cent replied incorrectly. Seven per cent said they didn't know. Of the 72 per cent who answered correctly, 45 per cent said it takes one year for the Earth to orbit the sun, 17 per cent said one day, two per cent one month and nine per cent didn't know.

No condoms in magazine

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A distributor says it will not handle the November issue of Spin magazine in Tarrant County because the edition contains a condom and explicit instructions for use. Trinity News Company has joined a number of other distributors, supermarkets, convenience stores and bookstores around the nation in refusing to distribute the current issue of the youth-oriented magazine. "We want to make the immensely important statement to our young readership that safe sex can save lives," said publisher Bob Guccione Jr. Lynn Bartlett, general manager of Trinity News Company, said his company refused to distribute the magazine because "our customers didn't want it. We checked with the supermarket and convenience store chains and other outlets and they were appalled. The said absolutely not."

Music key in whale rescue

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, which has joined attempts to rescue two trapped whales in Alaska, used classical music to tease 1,000 ice-bound white whales to safety after they became trapped by ice in the Bering Sea three years ago. Sailors aboard an icebreaker played music to get the whales to follow the ship along a 20-kilometre route smashed through the ice to open water in Senyavin Sound near the Bering Strait separating the Soviet Union from Alaska. Two Soviet icebreakers Monday were churning towards Barrow, Alaska, where U.S. scientists and Eskimos have been working for two weeks to try to free two California grey whales trapped inside eight kilometres of ice.

Bellbottoms are back again

PARIS (R) — Swashbuckling suits for historic adventurers and hip-hugging bellbottoms from the flower-child 60s are among exotic options for next summer's fashions being offered at French ready-to-wear previews. Martine Sitbon, a promising young designer who drew raves last week for her collection for Chloe, wooed the press and buyers Sunday with dashing jackets, romantic big-collared shirts and sleek bellbottoms that brought to mind the pirate days of Sir Walter Raleigh or Captain Kidd. Her clothes, aimed primarily at younger customers, had an air of the theatrical, but unlike eccentric Jean-Paul Gaultier's designs, they were also wearable on city streets.

Feeling lonely, bored, violent? Just call your chatline

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lonely and looking for diversion? Just call a special 900 number, sit back, and enjoy the hoarse scream on the other end of the line: "Ya momma's a freak."

Harboring fantasies of murder after a hard day at the office? Nobody around to talk about it? Dial 540-tell, for a chance to get it off your chest by recording that secret wish. You can also listen to someone else's "confession."

A growing number of nations have special telephone services to provide fun, companionship or thrills, but America has some of the most varied, controversial and profitable ones. There's "dateline," "chatline," "loveline," and "funline," for a chat with the opposite sex. For Hispanics, there's "Latinline," for blacks "soulline"; for Jews "Jewish

talk"; for heterosexual males "hot talk"; and for homosexuals, "gay chat."

And for those with a home computer, there are innumerable "electronic billboards," allowing telephone-line access across the United States to information that ranges from gardening tips to computer-imagined sexual material. The services are now coming under increasing scrutiny, with critics attributing cases of child pornography and physical assault to them.

Other detractors won't go that far, but say chat lines and electronic bulletin boards are still a phenomenon that society could do without.

Heavy users

Heavy users are "shut-ins, people who are so shy that they don't have a lot of other people to talk to," said psychologist Michael Broder in an interview. "I can't say it's a

good thing, because I'd rather have them out meeting people."

"They probably don't hurt people," Broder, past president of the American Psychological Association's division of media psychology, said of the services. "But I think it's incumbent for people to find some other substitute because otherwise you're probably going to miss out on a lot in life."

Reputedly first developed in Brazil, chat lines now operate by the thousands in about 25 of the 50 U.S. states and dozens of countries. In the United States, they generated an estimated \$90 million for telephone companies and vendors last year, according to the Information Industry Bulletin newsletter.

There is no estimate of the number of electronic notice boards. Experts say that is harder to pin down because any telephone line can be used,

whereas chat lines, with designated special prefixes, are easily counted.

In the United States, several regional telephone companies have stopped leasing lines to chat line vendors because of complaints. And some other countries also are having second thoughts.

France slapped advertising constraints on some electronic bulletin board services amid wide-spread sentiment that they were being used to match up prostitutes and clients.

An Australian telecommunications official told the AP that a service offering sexually suggestive recorded material was disconnected after a 24-hour trial run earlier this year because of opposition, as was a party line system after a longer test.

In the Netherlands, newspaper stories have begun to appear about first cases of party-line addiction, with frequent

callers nearing bankruptcy because of astronomical phone bills.

— And in Britain, British Telecom was forced to hang up on talkabout this year, after a barrage of allegations that the chat line users peddled drugs, spread racist propaganda and seduced girls.

Some operators of chat lines in the United States defend themselves by saying they are self-policed, with on-line monitors cutting off abusive or obscene callers. Other safeguards include blocking chat line calls by telephone companies on subscriber request.

But critics contend that users can suffer emotional damage and even physical harm — as well as financial hardship, at calls costing as much as \$2 a minute.

Those claims are ridiculed by regulars to the chat line circuit and by the vendors. John, a 28-year-old air con-

ditioner installer from New Jersey, who said his chat line calls cost about \$40 a month, sees the calls as harmless "diversion, something to do some evenings instead of TV."

Steve Becker, whose Stannis Research International operates six chat lines in the New York region, said that his lines are nothing more than a chance for clean communication among like-minded people.

"You try to make sure that standards of behaviour that we uphold are equal to those of any other commonly used forum, if not a little more strict," said Becker in an interview. "We monitor our lines very closely, and we work very hard to maintain these services as a dignified place to meet."

Detractors, however, complain of profanity on many of the services, and the danger of physical harm. Some cite the case of a Florida woman who

was severely beaten last January on her first date with a man she had gotten to know through a chat line.

Other critics cite cases of children calling sex lines; of minors running up horrendous bills on their parents' telephones; or of compulsive adults who ring up gigantic bills that they then refuse to pay.

Greg Vogt, who heads the enforcement division of the federal Communications Commission in Washington, said he knew of one child who made calls totalling \$7,000 in one month before his parents asked for blocking.

Some major computer message board services also say they pay monitors to keep things clean. But others offer free access to graphic sections labelled "adults only," containing nude stills, animated pictures of couples making love, and files of crude jokes.